Daily Report

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UN Conference Considers Test Ban Treaty Changes

LD0801074491 Moscow TASS in English 0733 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] New York January 8 TASS—A conference to consider amendments to the 1963 treaty banning tests of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in outer space and underwater, also known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), began at U.N. Headquarters on Monday.

The conference is taking place at a particularly important moment in mankind's contemporary history, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in his opening speech.

The world political situation is changing rapidly. The development of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States and important events in Europe give ground to hope that a new era—an era of peace—is coming, he said.

All this calls for discussion on issues pertaining to the termination of all tests of nuclear weapons, Perez de Cuellar said. He recalled that for many years the United Nations advocated a solution to the problem. It is now essential to make persistant efforts to secure a total nuclear test ban soon, he said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was elected the chairman of the conference, which will continue for two weeks.

Yevgeniy Golovko, the leader of a Soviet delegation, read out a message of greetings from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to participants at the conference.

In the message, Gorbachev again stated the invariability of the Soviet Union's policy towards a total nuclear test ban as soon as possible as a major step along the way to a nuclear-weapon-free world and reaffirmed the USSR'S readiness to halt its nuclear tests at any time if the United States does the same.

Conference Adds 'Pressure' on U.S.

PM0901094991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 91 Union Edition p 5

[Article by correspondent A. Shalnev: "Until Recently There Was a Nuclear Explosion in the World Every Nine Days"]

[Text] New York—The main result of the international conference that opened at UN headquarters on Monday and will run for almost two weeks can be predicted right now: The amendment will not be adopted. It is an amendment to the treaty banning nuclear tests in the three environments, an amendment that would ban all nuclear tests, not just those under water, in space, and in the atmosphere.

The result is easy to predict because the United States is against an all-embracing ban. And Washington, like Moscow and London, has the right to veto any changes that may be made to the treaty signed 27 years ago. The overwhelming majority of countries party to the treaty may support the changes, but if any of the "big three" says "no," that is decisive. That is what Article 2 of the treaty says.

In addition to Washington, London will also say "no." The British Government has already made that clear.

Does this mean that the conference called to discuss the question of transforming the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into an all-embracing test ban treaty is doomed to fail? Yes and no. Yes, because the amendment will be rejected, no because the conference, it seems, will make it possible to step up the political and psychological pressure on the United States. As a commentator in THE WASHINGTON POST put it, the United States will be carpeted by the international community.

The fact that the conference has coincided with the Persian Gulf crisis is objectively helping to step up that pressure. Washington officials have already repeatedly expressed fears that Iraq may be trying to equip itself with nuclear weapons. An all-embracing test ban treaty could undoubtedly allay those fears.

But the "Baghdad factor" clearly does not have for the U.S. Administration the significance that other factors have. The main factor is maintaining the reliability of America's nuclear arsenals. I shall quote a comment from Sunday's NEW YORK TIMES, which I find very remarkable: "A strategic nuclear arms agreement (between the USSR and the United States—A.Sh. note) will cut the superpowers' arsenals by one-third. Even if there were no uncertainties about the course that the Soviet Union will follow in the future, the administration is saying, tests are needed to develop new nuclear armaments and ensure the reliability of the old ones."

The reliability argument is being supported even by those Americans whom we tended to regard as disarmament supporters. A report recently presented to the House Armed Services Committee by Sidney Drell, director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and two other scientists, says: Only one-quarter of the arms in the U.S. nuclear arsenals are equipped with chemical detonators of the type which may be less frequently triggered accidentally, in a fire or a plane crash for example, than the old types of detonators. The development of new warheads equipped with safer detonators, S. Drell notes, will require new tests.

I am almost certain that this argument will be heard at the conference in the speeches of the U.S. representatives who will be led by a very low-ranking official. But the fact that a U.S. delegation will attend the conference at all may be regarded as an event in itself because, as THE WASHINGTON POST says, Washington makes no secret of the fact that this conference is an "unfriendly act" toward the United States.

Opening the conference, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar appealed to the participants to "do everything in their power to surmount the difficulties blocking the way to progress in the cause of nuclear disarmament."

In conclusion, here are a few figures. According to UN estimates, there are around 50,000 nuclear warheads in the world today: From 1945 through 1989 there were 1,819 nuclear tests in the world—on average, one test every 9 days; In 1990 the United States conducted eight tests plus one for Britain; the USSR conducted one.

The conference will cost almost $1 million to stage, just counting the costs that will be covered by the UN budget.

Presidential Spokesman Ignatenko Holds Briefing

Comments on Baltics, Shevardnadze

LD0801213791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent A. Melnikov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev met today with Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Presidential spokesman Ignatenko reported that the meeting took place to discuss the need for a further shake-up of the Union budget for 1991. As a result of the talks a number of steps to stabilize the country's economic situation were clarified and agreed upon, and a mechanism was worked out to harmonize the articles of the all-Union budget.

[Melnikov] The meeting was also mentioned at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists held at the Foreign Ministry Press Center. At the briefing there was also detailed discussion of the situation in the Baltic republics, particularly the dispatch of additional units of airborne troops there. Vitaliy Ignatenko, aide to the USSR president, said the decision on this was made by the USSR defense minister on the basis of one of the presidential decrees. There were many questions, including this one:

Is it possible that Shevardnadze will give up his decision to leave the post of foreign minister?

Reply: Eduard Amvrosiyevich is fulfilling his obligations for the time being but there is no question of his returning to his former position.

Regarding reports that the Soviet-U.S. summit planned for this February is being postponed, the presidential press spokesman declared that these rumors do not emanate from the Soviet side.

[Begin Ignatenko recording] ...that this will convince the Americans. We are preparing very seriously for this meeting. Moscow has sent no signals and does not intend to. We are preparing for this meeting seriously and hope that it will take place at the agreed time. [end recording]

Speaking of our position regarding events in the Persian Gulf, Vitaliy Ignatenko said the Soviet side has actively promoted the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, which will take place in Geneva tomorrow.

[Begin Ignatenko recording] We start from the premise that it is necessary to do all we can to somehow move the situation onto a peaceful track, although it seems to me today that there are fewer and fewer such chances. It seems to me that the only chance of peacefully resolving the Persian Gulf crisis is if the Iraqi president clearly realizes that the threat of military action against him is very, very real. [end recording]

Rejects Reports of Summit Postponement

LD0801173591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1410 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by commentator Viktor Levin on briefing by presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko]]

[Excerpts] To start with, Vitaliy Ignatenko acquainted those assembled with President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's agenda for today. After taking part in the opening of the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Mikhail Sergeyevich met with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. As Vitaliy Ignatenko told us, this meeting started at 1200, and had still not ended by the time the briefing began at 1500. As I understood him, the presidential aide expressed certainty that an accord on the budgetary problem is taking shape on the basis of compromise. [passage omitted]

Vitaliy Ignatenko also dwelt on the statement made by his American counterpart—or friend as he called him—Marlin Fitzwater, the U.S. President's press aide. Fitzwater had said there is a chance that President Bush's trip to the USSR could be postponed. In Ignatenko's opinion, the very wording: There is a chance that it could be postponed, is rather woolly and insubstantial. So far as Moscow is concerned, the USSR presidential aide stressed, we are preparing very earnestly for the meeting, and the possibility of postponement does not originate with us.

When Vitaliy Ignatenko started answering questions, I asked him to return to Fitwater's statement, since I believed it was rather alarming in tone. Here is what the USSR presidential aide replied to the question from All-Union Radio Station Mayak:

[Begin Ignatenko recording] I would again like to say that these reports do not stem from Moscow. They could not emanate from Moscow, and we have not supplied any grounds for this, so to speak. But of course we will keep a close eye on things, and if my words reach Marlin Fitzwater today then I believe they might calm him somewhat. We hope this meeting will take place at the scheduled time. We are preparing for it very energetically. But he was quite right: There is always the possibility of thinking up reasons for postponement. We do not advocate any reasons. And I would just like to reassure the Americans of that. [end recording]

Frankly, I would like to have heard rather more. For in my opinion there are no grounds for considering Fitzwater's statement to have been mere chance. There is clearly something behind it. But as you have heard, the President's aide refused to be drawn on what, and on how this is being regarded in Moscow. I have no intention of indulging in conjecture, so the question remains.

Many of my foreign colleagues were interested in the details of the decision to send paratroopers into the Baltic republics to insure that conscription into the army goes smoothly.

Vitaliy Ignatenko acknowledged that this was an extreme measure, but it was, in his words, entirely just since service in the army is a constitutional duty and no one has the right to evade it. As for the speculation—and this is precisely the formulation which in the case in question fully corresponds to the truth—regarding the dispatch to the Baltic of nearly 10,000 men of the airborne forces, Ignatenko expressed bewilderment concerning such information, but said it is true that he did not possess precise information. But afterwards, in the lobby, I managed to discover from a source meriting complete trust that in fact several subunits [podrazdeleniye] have been sent to the Baltic republics. I would remind you, for the sake of civilians, that a subunit is used to refer to a platoon, a company, or at most, a battalion. An even shorter briefing was then held by head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate Vitaliy Churkin. In my view, the most important thing in his account was the following: He reported that on 7 January 186 Soviet specialists had returned from Iraq; there are now 354 people remaining there. The evacuation of our citizens from Iraq will be completed on 9 January, that is, tomorrow. It is true that about 150 people will remain there on a voluntary basis to supervise equipment and property at enterprises being operated cooperatively. That seems to be all.

'No Reason' To Review Iraq Deadline

LD0801142891 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Oleg Polovko, and Leonid Timofeev]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—The Soviet side actively promoted the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, President Mikhail Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko told reporters today.

Asked what hopes Gorbachev pinned on the meeting, Ignatenko said the Soviet leadership wanted to exhaust every opportunity in search for a peace settlement in the Gulf.

However, chances for a peace settlement are dwindling, he said.

Such a solution is only possible if the Iraqi president realises that the threat of military action against him is "very real", Ignatenko said.

The Soviet leadership has not changed its support for United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"There is no reason to review the deadline set by the Security Council for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," he said.

Reports Gorbachev-Yeltsin Meeting

LD0801135891 Moscow TASS in English 1338 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Oleg Polovko, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev today met Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko told a briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press centre here.

Russian Federation Deputy Premier Yuriy Skokov and USSR Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov also took part in the meeting, Ignatenko said.

Gorbachev met Yeltsin in view of the need "to further settle a 1991 Union budget on which certain different interpretations remain" Ignatenko said, voicing hope that these problems "will be sorted out" today.

Ignatenko added that his office will have available a more detailed information on the content of the meeting later tonight.

Ignatenko told journalists that after meeting Yeltsin Gorbachev was scheduled to meet Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene.

He emphasised that it was so far unknown what would be discussed during the meeting because it would be held on Prunskiene's initiative.

At the same time, in response to journalists' questions, Ignatenko did not rule it out that the dispatch of additional paratroop units to the Baltic region to help military enlistment offices and command to carry out their draft into the Soviet Armed Forces would be raised during the meeting.

Ignatenko emphasised that the decision was taken by the Soviet defence minister on the strength of one of the presidential decrees.

Gorbachev To Meet Jewish Leader

LD0801142391 Moscow TASS in English 1358 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Oleg Polovko, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev will today meet Dupont firm President Edgar Bronfman who is also chairman of the World Jewish Congress.

Telling this to a briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry press centre, Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko said that the sides would centre on consultative-technical assistance the Dupont firm will give to the USSR.

In addition, they will discuss emigration from the Soviet Union.

Churkin Briefs Media on Iraq, Somali Situation

Iraq Evacuation To End

LD0801175991 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—A total of 186 Soviet specialists returned to Moscow from Iraq on Monday, 354 Soviet nationals remain in the country, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters today.

The evacuation will be completed by January 9, he said. A total of 150 Soviet specialists will remain in Iraq voluntarily to monitor major jointly built facilities, he said.

The number of diplomats and other officials in Iraq is being reduced, the spokesman said.

Iraq does not have financial claims against the Soviet Union and "compensation for breached contracts is not on the agenda", he said.

Work on jointly-constructed facilities has been temporarily suspended "until the normalisation of the situation in the Gulf", he said.

Moscow is concerned with the bloodshed in Somalia, which left many people dead, Churkin said.

The Soviet Union considers developments in Somalia an internal conflict that should be solved by the Somali people themselves, he said.

"We, however, believe that the bloodshed and military activities should be stopped immediately, and negotiations should begin towards an acceptable solution," he said.

The Soviet Union and Guatemala signed a joint communique to exchange embassies at the United Nations headquarters in New York on January 4, Churkin said.

This will serve to promote political, trade, economic, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries, he said.

On the same day, Soviet and U.S. diplomats passed a joint Soviet-American message to the United Nations secretary-general, stressing alarm over the escalation of violence in El Slavador.

The document, signed by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stressed that both states support an early ceasefire agreement, monitored by the United Nations for the time of talks between the Salvadorean Goverment and rebels before the scheduled elections are held in the country.

Asked about the aim of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev's visit to South Korea, Churkin said that is aimed to promote Soviet-South Korean cooperation.

After President No Tae-u's visit to the Soviet Union it was necessary to [words indistinct] to "fill bilateral relations with practical content", he said.

Urges Negotiations in Somalia

LD0801145191 Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—Moscow is concerned with the bloodshed in Somalia, which left many people dead, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today.

The Soviet Union considers developments in Somalia an internal conflict that should be solved by the Somali people themselves, he said.

"We, however, believe that the bloodshed and military activities should be stopped immediately, and negotiations should begin towards an acceptable solution," he said.

Foreign Ministry Protests Boarding of Freighter

AU0801145491 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 8 (AFP)—The Soviet Union on Tuesday protested over the boarding and search by U.S. and Spanish Navy sailors of one of its freighters, the Dmitriy Furmanov, in the Red Sea.

The ship was ordered to stop on January 4 as it travelled between Odessa, in the Black Sea, and the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah with 106 tonnes of military spare parts for the Jordanian Army, according to a communique issued here on behalf of the Foreign Trade Ministry. All documents were in order but the ship was prevented from proceeding to its destination after a 10-hour search during which the Soviet sailors were restricted to the galley.

On Tuesday, the ship was still in the Red Sea, watched over by U.S. and Spanish ships from the multinaonal force charged with enforcing the United Nations' embargo against Iraq. The ministry said the Soviet Union observed the U.N. embargo and accused the United States of seeking to undermine the trading activities of the Soviet Union's merchant fleet.

Petrovskiy Meets With Envoys on Gulf Situation

LD0801084791 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy on Monday received German Ambassador Klaus Blech at the latter's request.

They had a detailed discussion of the situation in the Gulf. The Soviet side reaffirmed its support for the respective U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The need to fill the time remaining before the January 15 deadline, set by Security Council Resolution 678, with most energetic diplomatic efforts to avert a war was emphasised.

The forthcoming meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is welcomed in the Soviet Union and viewed as a real chance to achieve a political settlement of the crisis, Petrovskiy said.

"We also regard as extremely useful and timely the initiative of the European Community countries, which suggested a meeting with an Iraqi representative, proceeding from the assumption that such bilateral and multilateral contacts will bring to the notice of the Iraqi leadership with utmost clarity the international community's determination to see the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, Petrovskiy said.

The Gulf crisis was also discussed during a meeting with Canadian Ambassador Richard Bell on the same day.

The two ambassadors were told about the Soviet Union's efforts through bilateral and multilateral channels towards settling the crisis as soon as possible from positions of common sense and observance of the norms of international law.

Doubts Expressed Over U.S.-Iraqi 'Compromise'

PM0901120791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 91 Second Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent V. Sukhoy: "Compromise Scenario? U.S. Analysts' 'Political Guesswork'"]

[Text] New York, 8 Jan—A number of U.S. newspapers have featured a compromise scenario—a compromise that could, under certain circumstances, open the way to the peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis.

As for the United States, it has no need, as it were, of any compromises, but it is being said that some options might suit Iraq. What is at issue?

In the opinion of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Iraq would agree to a compromise if the United States recognized its right to consider itself the leading Arab power in the region and did not object to its special role in relations with Kuwait. Syria's current actions in Lebanon, for instance, could act as the precedent. The United States has after all effectively resigned itself to the special role that Syrian troops play on Lebanese territory.

Some analysts think that Washington could agree in principle to this compromise if Iraq were to radically revise its relations with the West and hold a more "flexible position" on Israel. Then the United States would not have to choose between its strategic partnership with Tel Aviv and maintaining quite close ties with leading Arab countries. But this option would not totally suit Israel since people in Tel Aviv are by no means interested in preserving the "Baghdad factor" in the Near East with its powerful military machine. It would not satisfy certain U.S. allies in the Arab world either, since they have serious misgivings about the growing military threat from Iraq.

United States & Canada

Fitzwater Statement on Summit Prospects Viewed

Reasons for Statement Examined

LD0801143591 Moscow TASS in English 1358 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS military news analyst Vladimir Chernyshev]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—Asked at a recent briefing about the Soviet-U.S. summit, scheduled to be held in Moscow on February 11-13, White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said that "at this point" the U.S. was still planning to hold it on the dates announced. The American spokesman did not rule out the possibility of a postponement for "a couple of concerns", however.

First, the situation in the Persian Gulf and "what might be the status of events there". It is fair to say that on this point the U.S. Administration can be understood to some degree. A question prompts itself, however: Will the significance of personal exchanges of views between the leaders of the two great powers increase even greater if the situation worsens in the Gulf?

In this context, it seems useful to recall the unscheduled, even extraordinary, meeting between the Soviet and U.S. Presidents in Helsinki, held at the request of George Bush to discuss the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Frankly speaking, I cannot understand the other concern cited by Fitzwater: "the status of the START negotiations". He said that "we are having some delays in that area".

Admittedly, the negotiators have yet to sort out some of the issues. It turns out that the "delay" was linked to "verification of some of the numbers we were given during CFE [Conventional Forces in Europe talks]", however.

What is the relationship between the talks on strategic armaments in Geneva and Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna? Moreover the CFE treaty allows for three months after its entry into force to settle all contentious issues connected with the provision of information by the sides.

Did Washington really not know about this before agreeing on the date of the summit in Moscow? It is hardly feasible to link different talks, even though they are "a part of the arms control discussion", using Fitzwater's expression.

The previous unfortunate experience of arms control shows that attempts to link different negotiations have never produced positive results. At the same time, the positive experience shows that sides reach agreement quicker when they divide problems and tackle them either concurrently or one after another. An example is the Geneva talks, where at first an agreement on medium and shorter-range missiles was signed and work is now being completed on the treaty on strategic offensive weapons.

I think official Washington realises this. Then why the attempt to revive the policy of "linkages" in the run-up to the summit? Perhaps this is a desire to exert political pressure on Moscow or check out if it has changed its policy, carried out in accordance with new political thinking? If this is so, one should say bluntly that the method of pressure will hardly prove effective.

The best place for the president to become convinced of the invariability of the Soviet leadership's policy is the summit meeting.

Mixed Reaction Seen

PM0801171791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Article by diplomatic correspondent M. Yusin under the general heading "Summit May Be Postponed"]

[Text] At the time the Moscow edition of IZVESTIYA was signed to press there had been no official reaction by the Soviet side to Fitzwater's speech. Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry information administration, limited himself to the following statement: "The Foreign Ministry continues to work on the basis that the meeting between the Soviet and American presidents will take place, as scheduled, between 11 and 13 February."

In unofficial conversations, however, high-ranking ministry staffers admit that Fitzwater's statement has come as no surprise to them. The domestic political situation in the Soviet Union is the basic reason for this American move. Hinting at a possible postponement of the summit, the Americans give us to understand that it would be a mistake to count on Bush's visit taking place come what may, regardless of the development of the situation in the USSR. It is most likely no accident that the White House press secretary's announcement should be made on the very day when Moscow announced its decision to dispatch assault troop units to the Baltic to back up the Soviet Army draft.

Touching on other reasons for a possible postponement of the visit, a well-informed Foreign Ministry staffer implied that the planned signing of the treaty on strategic arms in Moscow could be frustrated because of problems that have arisen with the other agreement—the Paris agreement on conventional arms in Europe. The Americans and, to an even greater extent, the Europeans have taken umbrage at being given by the Soviet Union, as they see it, distorted data about their armaments due for reduction. "The situation is very serious. Confidence in us has been undermined. I fear that until we work this problem out, no new treaties will be signed with either the United States or the Europeans," my interlocutor said.

As far as the the treaty on strategic offensive arms proper is concerned, all the basic problems there have been solved and it only remains to settle technical details, bound up basically with its translation. If the treaty is not signed on schedule, it will only be because of its linkage with questions that have arisen in connection with the Paris agreement, according to the Soviet diplomat.

Belonogov, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD0801182591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1758 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TASS)—Aleksandr Belonogov, a USSR deputy foreign minister, today received Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR. Issues concerning the situation in the Persian Gulf were discussed and the meeting which is to take place on 9 January in Geneva between the leaders of the diplomatic departments of the United States and Iraq was also referred to.

IZVESTIYA Reports Bush Statement on Gulf

PM0801100491 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Blinov under the rubric "Panorama of International Life"]

[Text] Washington—A meeting between G. Bush and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar took place at the American President's country residence. At the end of the talk, which lasted about three hours, the UN secretary general expressed the conviction that the American President "is striving for a peaceful resolution" of the crisis in the Persian Gulf, "but at the same time does not intend to depart from the terms of the UN Security Council resolution." Talking to journalists in Washington, Perez de Cuellar indicated that in the event of a favorable outcome of the Geneva meeting, he might consider the possibility of a visit to Baghdad.

For his part President G. Bush spoke publicly on two occasions at the end of last week to explain the American approach in the forthcoming dialog with Iraq. Appearing before the television cameras on the eve of his flight to Camp David, he expressed satisfaction at Iraq's consent to conduct the meeting. "I hope that the Iraqis' agreement reflects their comprehension of the seriousness of the present situation," G. Bush stated.

The President said that he is working on the text of his personal message to the Iraqi president, which J. Baker will pass on via Tariq 'Aziz. The secretary of state will attempt to convince his Iraqi colleague of the necessity to implement the Security Council resolution on Kuwait. In this context, the American side does not consider it possible to "compromise, put forward face-saving formulas, or to enter into talks on the aims formulated in the UN resolutions." In his traditional radio broadcast to the American people, the President emphasized that the dialog in Geneva "will not be an act of secret diplomacy: J. Baker will repeat the demand for Iraq to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait or be faced with terrible consequences."

M. al-Mashshat, Iraqi ambassador to Washington, stated in American television broadcasts that Tariq 'Aziz will go to Geneva with the intention of discussing the crisis in the Persian Gulf "as part of the whole range of Near Eastern problems." The Geneva meeting will be "the first step in the peace process," and Iraq does not, as the ambassador made clear, recognize the time limit set by the Security Council for carrying out its resolutions on Kuwait—15 January.

The American press regards these statements as evidence of Iraq's intention to get into long drawn-out discussions, in order to avoid actually carrying out the Security Council's demands. As commentators note, it was this very interpretation of the Iraqi leadership's intentions that prompted G. Bush to abandon the proposal to send J. Baker to Baghdad for a personal meeting with President Saddam Husayn. "This proposal no longer stands," G. Bush stated.

President G. Bush also came out against the attempts to link the question of the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait with other problems including the Palestinian one. True, he did here make the proviso that "nobody will be able to prevent the Iraqi minister from raising these or other questions" during the course of the forthcoming conversation with J. Baker.

In his radio broadcast, President Bush reminded the audience that 15 January is the date by which Iraq must carry out the UN resolution. At the same time, this date is not, according to the President, one after which American troops concentrated in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf must act.

In connection with the President's radio broadcast, the U.S. mass media note that the accord on a meeting in Geneva does not in itself exclude the possibility of the military option being used in this crisis situation. Everything will depend on whether the Iraqi side will show readiness to withdraw from Kuwait and in what time scale.

China

TASS Notes Opening of PRC Border Ports

LD0501112691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0316 GMT 5 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Konstantin Toporkov and Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing, 5 Jan (TASS)—Two new crossings have been opened on the border river Argun, which has now become a river linking, not separating, the USSR and the PRC. They were opened on 1 January, a spokesman of the PRC Communications Ministry stated on Friday.

The cargo quays in Chinese territory are located in the towns of Heishantou and Shiwei (in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region). According to the XINHUA news agency, the rated capacities of the two new crossings are about 100,000 tonnes of cargo annually. During wintertime, when the Argun is icebound, goods will be carried by conventional land transport along temporary ice tracks.

At present the final details are being tackled with the organization at these locations of effective customs and border controls, a quarantine service and goods inspection.

The spokesman of the PRC Communications Ministry stressed that China hopes that the entry into operation of the two new river crossings will promote border trade between our countries.

Trade Union Secretary Describes China Visit

OW0901130991 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Interview with (Wurkens), a member and secretary of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, by (Linik), a station reporter, in Beijing—Wurken's comments comments are in Russian with superimposed translation into Mandarin]

[Excerpts] A Soviet delegation headed by Shcherbakov, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, visited China recently. The visit has resulted in the resumption of formal high-level relations with Chinese trade unions. In addition to Beijing, the delegation visited Shanghai, Guangzhou, and the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone. They also met with representatives of the Chinese workers. [passage omitted]

(Wurkens) said: For a period, China and the Soviet Union had no exchanges for political reasons, but this has not reduced the interest of the Chinese in our country, even among young people. The Chinese have a very strong interest and clear affection for our country. The Chinese people we met, particulary the workers, were very hardworking and disciplined by nature. After accepting a task, they exert full efforts to accomplish it. The Chinese comrades did not conceal from us the fact that the average standard of living, especially in rural areas, is still comparatively low. In spite of this, the trend toward improving living conditions and elevating material welfare is still very obvious.

The reporter asked: Which aspects of our life are the Chinese most interested in?

(Wurkens) answered: Basically the Chinese people are interested in everything. Like workers in Canada, the United States, and other countries, Chinese workers are also interested in issues like wages, safety measures, and the length of the work day. Apart from questions related to production, they also raised questions about the Soviet people's daily lives.

The reporter asked: What about the pace of life and progress by Chinese people in cities you visited?

(Wurkens) said: Beijing is very beautiful, very clean, and well managed. Our Chinese comrades told us that housing problems still exist in cities. They are being quickly solved, however. In city construction, consideration is not only given to new trends, but also to preserving a nationality's architectural traditions. This deserves praise. Aside from the high-rise buildings built quickly, the traditional style has become increasingly obvious. This is why the city is very easy on the eyes. I should add another point, that is, all historical sites are meticulously protected.

The responsible person of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions concluded: My overall impression is very favorable.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Legislators Arrive, Hold Talks

Meet With Lukyanov

OW0701150991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1458 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 7 KYODO—Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov said Monday that President Mikhail Gorbachev's planned visit to Japan in mid-April would not bring about a settlement of the bilateral territorial dispute.

Lukyanov made the remark during a meeting with a Japanese legislative group led by Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, president of the House of Councillors, at the Kremlin, Japanese officials said.

Gorbachev will be the first top Soviet leader to visit Japan and will mark a new era in the relationship between the two countries, Lukyanov was quoted as saying.

Lukyanov said, however, he does not think all issues will be resolved by Gorbachev's visit.

Tsuchiya insisted the territorial dispute is a problem the two countries must settle in order to improve bilateral relations.

Lukyanov replied that the territorial issue involves national sentiments on the one hand and historical problems the other.

The two countries have differing historical perspectives on the issue and cannot immediately resolve it by tackling it head-on, Lukyanov said.

Soviet-Japanese relations are very important and there would be no stability in the Asian-Pacific region without the participation of Japan, he said.

Lukyanov also said the Soviet Union is planning an Asian summit meeting which would include the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Prior to the meeting with Lukyanov, the Japanese legislative delegation met separately with Ivan Laptev, chairman of the Soviet of the Unions, and Rafik Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities.

Nishanov was quoted as saying he is convinced that Japan and the Soviet Union will conclude a peace treaty in the near future.

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to meet Aleksandr Yakovlov, a member of the Presidential Council and a close associate of Gorbachev, on Tuesday.

Hold Talks With Yakovlev

OW0901022791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0125 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 8 KYODO—Soviet Presidential Council member Aleksandr Yakovlev expressed a strong desire Tuesday to improve overall relations with Japan through cooperation in various areas, Japanese officials said.

In a 40-minute meeting with visiting Japanese House of Councillors President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, Yakovlev said the number of areas in which Japan and the Soviet Union can cooperate is unlimited, even in the long term.

"It is possible for the two nations to cooperate in all fields," Yakovlev said.

Yakovlev also said problems spanning national boundaries such as the environment and excess population would become major future world issues and asked Japan to join in raising funds for human survival and development, the officials accompanying Tsuchiya said.

Tsuchiya told Yakovlev he will do his best to realize the proposal.

Tsuchiya has been in Moscow since Sunday for an eight-day trip with a group of nonpartisan upper house members to sound out Soviet positions prior to President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan in April.

Tsuchiya invited Yakovlev to visit Japan, but Yakovlev said he did not know when he could go to Tokyo, the officials said.

On Wednesday, Tsuchiya is to meet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

Meet With Gorbachev

OW0901125791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 9 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday met with Japanese House of Councillors President Yoshikiko Tsuchiya and reaffirmed his plan to visit Japan in April.

In a 45-minute meeting with Tsuchiya at the Kremlin, Gorbachev said, "As I told somebody before, I want to visit Japan when the cherry blossoms bloom," according to Japanese officials accompanying Tsuchiya on his eight-day visit to Moscow.

When Tsuchiya urged Gorbachev to visit Japan before the cherry blossoms fall, the Soviet President nodded, the officials said.

In mid-December Soviet sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Gorbachev plans to visit Japan next April 15 and stay for up to three days. He will be the first Soviet leader to do so.

The visit by Gorbachev is expected to break the impasse in bilateral relations between Japan and the Soviet Union over the territorial dispute concerning the four Soviet-held islands off northeastern Hokkaido.

Japan has demanded the return of the four islands held by the Soviets since the end of World War II as a precondition for the conclusion of a peace treaty and economic assistance to the Soviet Union.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama plans to visit Moscow on January 22-23 to lay the groundwork for Gorbachev's Japan visit.

Earlier in the day, Tsuchiya conferred with Soviet Vice President Gennadiiy I. Yanayev and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, which is home to half of the Soviet population of 289 million, and is the economic powerhouse of the 15 republics.

Yeltsin expressed his strong hope to improve Japan-Soviet relations, saying improvement of relations in economic and other fields so far has been slow and passive, the officials said.

Tsuchiya, who arrived in Moscow on Sunday as leader of a group of Japanese Upper House members, is scheduled to return home next Sunday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Plans Visit

LD0801173991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1708 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TASS)—The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that in accordance with a mutual agreement, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama is to pay an official visit to the USSR in the second half of January.

Japan To Support USSR's IMF Membership

LD0801234491 Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Tokyo January 8 TASS—The Japanese Government has adopted a formal decision to back the Soviet Union's application for membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other international financial organisations.

The influential Japanese newspaper ASAHI's news service reported today that the country's Finance Ministry decided to support the call by the United States to grant the Soviet Union special member status in the leading financial establishments and to provide through their channels intellectual economic assistance to help radical restructuring of the Soviet economy and its transition to a full-blooded market.

Priority will be given to sharing experience of working out and implementing a state finance-and-monetary strategy. Practical advice will also be provided to upgrade the efficiency of transport, distribution networks and the power-engineering policy.

Previously, Japan was known for its hardline policy in this field in contrast to other industrialized nations including the United States. The change of heart followed the publication in late December of a report by major international financial organisations on the state of the Soviet economy. The report expressed the common Western stance towards Soviet economic reforms and advised support for Soviet efforts, while advocating caution in direct financial support to the Soviet Union. These recommendations were close to what Tokyo had favoured when it conditioned the beginning of a large-scale economic cooperation with the USSR on Soviet territorial concessions.

The problem of admitting the Soviet Union to international financial organisations will be central at the meeting of the "big seven" financial leaders which is due to open in New York on January 20.

According to ASAHI, Japanese Finance Minister Riutaro Hashimoto intends to set out his country's formal view on backing the Soviet application for membership.

Near East & South Asia

Petrovskiy: 'Still Time' For Gulf Settlement

PM0901112191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report by G. Charodeyev under the general heading "Persian Gulf: On the Eve of the Geneva Meeting"]

[Text] Moscow—How does the Soviet foreign policy department view the situation now prevailing in the Persian Gulf?

In the opinion of USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, a period of very active and, at the same time, "quiet" diplomacy has now begun with the aim of finding the way to a political settlement of the conflict in the Gulf. The Foreign Ministry maintains permanent contacts with the United States, Iraq, the nonaligned movement, Arab states.... There is still time for a political settlement. Everything depends on Iraq and the extent to which its leadership heeds the voice of the international community formulated in the well-known UN Security Council decisions.

It must be pointed out that there is not a single UN armed formation in the Persian Gulf, he emphasized in an interview with IZVESTIYA's correspondent. The troops that are there now were invited by Saudi Arabia. Under Article 51 of the UN Charter, any state has the right to defense for purposes of self-defense if it fears possible aggression.

Arab countries are nurturing the idea of attracting a contingent of UN troops to this region. Of course, military operations cannot be totally ruled out after the end of the "pause," and in this connection I wish once again to repeat: There is no question of any Soviet participation in military operations against Iraq.

Troops under the UN flag may be used by the world community primarily as a kind of "buffer" between the sides in conflict. They must help to prevent war. Such contingents exist at various points in the Near East, and they do not participate in combat operations.

If it is possible today to ensure the strict fulfillment of the Security Council decisions in connection with the aggression against Kuwait, this will create an invaluable precedent for settling other conflicts, including the Near East conflict. For the present crisis has not only become a trial of strength for the United Nations but has also demonstrated the potential contained in the UN Charter, in the mechanisms provided by it, and in cooperation among the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Foreign Ministry Aide Outlines Gulf Thinking

PM0801151991 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Jan 91 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Sergey Kerpichenko, "head of the Arabian Gulf Section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry," place and date not given: "Head of Gulf Section at Soviet Foreign Ministry Tells AL-ANBA': Moscow For Restoration of Kuwait's Independence"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] [AL-ANBA'] The Soviet Union supported the Security Council resolutions calling on Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and threatening it that force would be used to guarantee implementation of these resolutions, and the Soviets clearly sympathized with the Kuwaitis. But what drew the attention was the Soviet Government's abstention from participating in the international military coalition in the Gulf. Has that anything to do with the USSR leadership's reservations about that coalition, or did it have to do with Moscow's desire to keep its doors open to Baghdad?

[Kerpichenko] The Soviet Union did indeed support all the UN Security Council resolutions on the Kuwait crisis. We support them unconditionally. We are in fact earnestly seeking to implement these resolutions. Our support for the Kuwaitis, who are seeking to restore their country's independence and sovereignty, is beyond doubt.

As for participation in the military coalition against Iraq, it has to do with two considerations. It is known that we announced from the outset that there could be no Soviet military participation before the Supreme Soviet (the country's parliament) approved, provided also that that matter was settled in the context of the joint military general staff committee. Since the Armed Forces General Staff committee has been unable to make a proper start on the job, obviously the Soviet side has not seriously studied the question of its participation in military operations. That is our principled position.

Besides, the Soviet Union favors—and without any ambiguity—a peaceful solution to the crisis, on the grounds that a large-scale military conflict in the region would have disastrous consequences and might turn into a dreadful tragedy for the parties to the conflict. But this does not mean that we disagree with anything in Resolution 678; we actually regard that resolution as an effective measure for a peaceful settlement to the conflict. This is because the resolution provides a good opportunity to start settling the conflict peacefully. So long as the "goodwill period" has not ended, that opportunity is still available.

[AL-ANBA'] Is it true that work on training Iraqi military personnel are still taking place in the Soviet Union?

[Kerpichenko] Until 2 August there was a small of group of Iraqi military personnel being trained at military education establishments, but all have left the Soviet Union.

[AL-ANBA'] What about the Soviet Embassy's position in Kuwait?

[Kerpichenko] The Soviet Union has not officially closed its embassy in Kuwait, because Moscow is maintaining its diplomatic relations with the Kuwaiti Government and the Kuwaiti people. The Kuwaiti Embassy is also operating in Moscow. But Kuwait is now experiencing an unusual position under the occupation. The Iraqi authorities have announced that they are denying all foreign diplomats their diplomatic immunity and other privileges. In view of those circumstances, Soviet diplomats have been evacuated. But I reiterate that that has not in any way affected our relations with Kuwait.

[AL-ANBA'] Are there any estimates of the economic losses suffered by the Soviet Union as a result of the the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait?

[Kerpichenko] Undoubtedly grave losses have afflicted the Soviet Union, as we have ceased trade exchange and economic cooperation with both Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with the sanctions resolution issued by the Security Council. This is in the knowledge that that cooperation, especially with Iraq, was very very broad. We also stopped importing Iraqi oil, which we used not only to meet our domestic needs, but even to reexport to India and Bulgaria, for example. Thus we are not receiving Indian and Bulgarian consumer goods in return for oil—a big loss for us. The experts' evacuation from Iraq is, of course, harming the Soviet economy. But we embarked on that in implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

The direct losses inflicted on the Soviet economy so far as a result of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait are estimated at billions of dollars. As for the indirect losses, they can only be estimated in the future. The Soviet Union—being a major source of oil—could have compensated for some of its losses through the high oil prices, but the sharp drop in Soviet oil exports as a result of a reduction in its output is preventing us from compensating for our losses resulting from the crisis.

[AL-ANBA'] In your view, what can be expected at the crisis level from the summit between Presidents Gorbachev and Bush in February?

[Kerpichenko] The Soviet Union is for the unconditional restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty and independence. The Soviets are following the Kuwaits' fate with great concern and sympathy, since Kuwait and its citizens are experiencing a harsh predicament. But we hope that that predicament will be ended soon and that the Kuwaitis will recover their freedom and their homeland's independence through political and peaceful means as soon as possible. For its part, the Soviet Union will continue to exert its utmost efforts to realize that objective. It is known that the Helsinki meeting between the Soviet President and the U.S. President devoted major attention to doubling the efforts being made to resolve the Kuwait problem. I am confident that the two presidents will also devote major attention to it at their upcoming meeting and propose new, constructive, committed proposals in that regard.

[AL-ANBA'] Throughout modern history Moscow has always had its own political plan in the Middle East. So what is the Soviet plan in the Middle East region in the present Gorbachev era?

[Kerpichenko] Our plan in the Middle East is known in the world. It was formulated in its present form under the Soviet Union's new political thinking. It aims at establishing a new order in the Middle East through political and peaceful means and on the basis of the new thinking. The plan includes several major sections dealing with the more difficult questions, especially a halt to the arms race, disarmament in the Middle East, settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, resolution of the Palestinian problem, and the establishment of a regional security system. That plan relies on the balance of interests idea, not the balance of power. When it was

announced it received a positive response in many Middle Eastern countries and movements in the world as a whole.

Although that plan is very difficult to implement and full of contradictions owing to the difficult operations experienced by the Middle East, the Soviet Union does not abandon its view and visualization of the new system in that region. The Soviet Union is working sincerely to translate its plan into a living reality. In my view, a political solution to the Kuwait crisis is bound to act as a strong thrust for making the new system in the Middle East a reality, or at least an attainable objective.

[AL-ANBA'] The Soviet media spoke recently about a collective security system in the Middle East being worked out which would include the Arab states, Israel, and the Security Council's permanent states. So who is working for that system, and is it a prelude to the international conference or a result of it?

Actually we included the question of the security system in the Middle East on the agenda and the American side, including representatives at the higher level, expressed its approval during the Soviet-U.S. dialogue of the idea of establishing a security system in that region. Furthermore, the Soviet Union has drawn up basic elements for that system, and we find it essential for that system to include all the Middle East states without exception and for the Security Council and the United Nations to participate actively in establishing it.

The prevailing belief in the Soviet Union is that neither the Middle East crisis, nor the Kuwait crisis, nor any other crisis can be resolved fully if the basic elements necessary for establishing a security system guaranteeing all the legitimate interests of the region's states are not made available. Thus we do not believe that by presenting its plan the Soviet Union has fallen into a trap or become a prisoner of its new political thinking.

Evacuation of Workers From Iraq To End 10 Jan

LD0801115891 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—A total of 358 Soviet citizens is left in Iraq after a group of 182 Soviet specialists returned from this country on Monday [7 January]. One more Aeroflot flight from Iraq to Moscow will be organised shortly, the Soviet Foreign Ministry told TASS.

At the same time, some 150 Soviet specialists decided to stay in Iraq to mothball the equipment and ensure that it is intact.

January 15 is the deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, set by a U.N. Security Council resolution. The situation in the Gulf is increasingly exacerbating and, despite the world community's attempts to settle the crisis peacefully, the possibility of a military confrontation remains.

Complete evacuation of Soviet citizens from Iraq, except for the specialists who want to stay there, is to be finished by January 10.

Aeroflot Suspends Flights to Baghdad

AU0901092391 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 9 (AFP)—Aeroflot, one of the last airlines to fly to Baghdad, has suspended its scheduled flights to the Iraqi capital, a spokesman for the Soviet carrier said Wednesday.

The suspension coincides with the scheduled return Wednesday of the last 345 Soviet citizens from Baghdad aboard a special Aeroflot flight.

Many airlines have reduced or cancelled services to the Gulf region because of the war threat.

Afghan Official Discusses Soviet Ties

91UF0289A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 90 Second Edition p 5

[Article by Farid Mazdak, deputy chairman of the Fatherland Party: "What Is Behind the Change of the Sign"]

[Text] Kabul—*The Fatherland Party appeared on the political arena of Afghanistan a half year ago. This is the name of the former People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) after its second congress was held in June of this year, 25 years after the party was created. The congress adopted a new program and rules and earmarked the goals and tasks of party activity in the modern stage. What is behind the change of the name of the PDPA?*

It was possible for the Fatherland Party to appear because over four years the policy of national reconciliation had been transformed into a recognized and approved system of party views and had received the support of the Afghan society.

It is no secret that inviting in the Soviet troops had a negative effect on the prestige of the PDPA as a political organization. There was a widespread opinion that it was unable by itself to control the processes taking place in the country. Now we must prove the opposite.

The rejection of outdated ideas and the selection of new goals are a difficult thing for any party, especially in a country where there is a civil war. Each step along the path to implementation of the policy of national reconciliation is achieved at the price of an immense amount of explanatory work and sometimes a ferocious struggle within the party. There can be no question about the successes, however. As became clear during the course of

the preparations for the congress, many of even the most stubborn and "persistent" opponents of reconciliation abandoned their former views.

The essence of the program documents adopted by the congress amounts to the following:

—Afghanistan is an eastern Muslim country. Its people, in spite of their obvious differences on the ethnic, cultural, and religious plane, share the same history and territory on which they live. At moments of crisis they have always been able to overcome contradictions that arise and show like-mindedness in deciding the fate of their country;

—Afghanistan's economy is multisectoral and is based on various forms of property. Today we have a market economy but it, too, has been destroyed to a certain degree;

—the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan is determined by our country's geopolitical position. It dictates our adherence to a policy of nonalignment and a positive and active neutrality. In the past, any deviation from this principle has ended with negative consequences, mainly in the sphere of relations with our neighbors, and instability within the country.

Our party is convinced that in the present situation its main task is not the construction of socialism and not a national democratic revolution but the performance of a number of pressing priority tasks: providing for peace and regeneration of the country and achieving national unification. This is shown in the party program as well.

Now, according to the rules, we are a "sociopolitical organization which unites all patriotic, national, democratic, and progressive elements" that operates "on the basis of principles of the holy religion of Islam, the constitution, and other laws of the Republic of Afghanistan."

The leadership devotes special attention to the role and activity of party levers in the legislature and other organs of power and social organizations. Acceptance into the party is granted on the basis of the person's voluntary request. There is a selection of politically conscious individuals and preference is given to the intelligentsia. At the same time, the party does not separate itself from the working segments of society and is not weakening its ties with them. The increased authority of party members is shown by the fact that during the past six months more than 10,000 people have entered it.

Problem number one for our party (along with cooperation with the state authorities) is the rebirth of the truly independent political individual. Supporting the legislature and the government headed by Prime Minister Khaliqyar and having voted in favor of a vote of confidence in him, we still retain the right to criticize all government decisions that stand in contradiction to the basic directions of party policy and the course toward national reconciliation.

Another distinguishing feature that is linked to the restoration of the independent party individual is the tendency toward refraining from state subsidization of material needs. We have been completely self-financed for two years now.

The Fatherland Party takes the initiative in its hands. The policy of national reconciliation to which it adheres is reflected not only among the field commanders but also abroad. The Afghan patriotic forces—whether they be in Pakistan, Iran, or the countries of the West—show objectivity and common sense in their search for a political solution. In this sense the negotiations held recently in Geneva between President Najibullah and outstanding representatives of the moderate opposition seem extremely promising.

There is no doubt that the most acceptable path now is elections, dialogue, rejection of the past hostility, a striving for peace, rebirth of the country, and the establishment of national harmony. This is the only policy the people will support.

The course toward national reconciliation that was initiated by our party was resolutely supported by 26 parties and sociopolitical organizations and also many national figures—both those included in the Afghanistan peace front and those outside it.

We look toward the future with optimism. We are convinced that the Fatherland Party will play a major role in any political system that will be created as a result of political regulation of the conflict and free democratic elections.

We are paying a lot of attention to the course of perestroyka in the Soviet Union. We are attracted by the growth of democracy and glasnost and the exceptionally high level of political activity of the people. At the same time, we understand the problems and difficulties encountered by the people of this country, which is our friend. We are convinced that your people are capable of overcoming all the obstacles. As was noted at our party's congress, the country of the Soviets—a traditional friend of our people and our great northern neighbor—has never abandoned us during the most difficult days. The diplomatic efforts of the Soviet Union, which contributed to preparing the soil for acceleration of the political regulation of the problem in Afghanistan and were directed toward putting an end to the suffering of Afghans, are of immense value to our people. Our party is infinitely grateful to the CPSU, the legislature, and the Soviet people for this.

We are firmly convinced that the strengthening and development of multilateral friendly mutually advantageous ties between our governments, peoples, and parties coincide with the national goals of both countries and with the guarantee of peace and stability in the region. Our party will continue in the future to make efforts to strengthen this friendship. We are convinced that the system of direct ties that has been created between the provinces of Afghanistan and the republics of the USSR

as one of the new forms of cooperation will contribute to even greater strengthening of the friendship between our nations.

For many years thousands of Soviet people have been in our country in keeping with government agreements. These are people who are quite familiar with our morality, traditions, and also the problems of our people, who during times that were difficult for us constantly called for public opinion in the country of the Soviets to render support to the people of Afghanistan. We attach a great deal of significance to the noble mission of these sincere friends of our country.

Of course, our party understands the sorrow of the mothers whose children were captured by the opposition. Me have done everything possible to release them. We are still doing this in the hope of achieving a positive result.

West Europe

Petrovskiy, Italian Envoy Meet 8 Jan, View Gulf

LD0901122691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1153 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (TASS)—USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy received Ferdinando Salleo, Italian ambassador to the USSR, on 8 January. Issues connected with the political settlement of the crisis in the Persian Gulf region based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions were examined.

Fighter Pilots Return Home After Crash in Sweden

LD0901092391 Moscow TASS in English 0806 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Revyakin]

[Text] The two Soviet pilots escaped practically unscathed after their Su-24 fighter-plane crashed into the Baltic Sea east of the Swedish island of Gotland on Tuesday [8 January].

The Swedish Telegraphic Bureau (TT) has provided details of the rescue.

The Soviet pilots, tt notes, were located on inflatable floats and picked up by a Swedish Air Force rescue helicopter.

Although they had been floating on the cold sea for nearly an hour, they felt quite well.

The pilots were flown to the town of Visby on Gotland Island for a medical examination. In keeping with local regulations they were questioned by Police. The Soviet pilots declared their desire to return home.

Now that all formalities have been performed, tt notes, the Soviet Air Force pilots will stay in Gotland until a Soviet Embassy official arrives and they will then be flown to the Soviet Union.

Supreme Soviet

Lukyanov Addresses Opening Session 8 Jan

LD0801231291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1845 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Opening remarks by USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 8 January; from the "At the USSR Supreme Soviet Session" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The Union legislature began work today in its renewed composition. Opening the session, Comrade Lukyanov observed that the majority of deputies who have entered the Supreme Soviet following the rotation are people who have already participated actively in the work of the standing committees and commissions. He expressed the hope that all the valuable experience built up during the first year will be utilized and he called upon the deputies to put themselves in a businesslike frame of mind. The chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet then dwelt in detail upon the results of the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies:

[Lukyanov] Our session is following hot on the heels of the congress. It was a political event that does not come within the framework of unambiguous and, even more so, of hasty, assessments. It was an event that requires an objective and considered approach.

Nevertheless, some statements and commentaries still quite frequently contain assertions that the congress marked a definite shift to the right by the state leadership of the country, a dangerous consolidation of conservative forces ready to head a dictatorship, and so on.

Some people say that we are only entering upon perestroyka now. Others say that a mild counterrevolution has in effect already taken place. To tell the truth, it is hard to tell what there is more of here—unwillingness to take account of the real facts or a conscious striving to ignore the decisions of the congress.

However, these facts indicate that the congress really played an extremely important, and primarily, a stabilizing role in society because the congress once again stressed adherence to the ideas of perestroyka, the preservation and renewal of the Union, and the consolidation of all civic patriotic forces in society; because the congress not only gave a realistic assessment of the state of affairs in the country but also determined the key directions for emerging from the crisis and for normalizing the situation in society; because the congress, despite the great variety in the speeches by the deputies, was permeated by responsibility, by a constructive attitude and by a striving to reach agreement and to seek out new approaches to resolving the questions tormenting us, tormenting every Soviet family and every Soviet person. Finally, because the congress did not extinguish but rather opened up new opportunities for intensifying the transformations that have begun and offered yet another opportunity to save those processes of renewal that are under way in our country.

That is what the true picture of the congress looks like. Every one of you were participants in it. It is precisely in this constructive spirit that the discussion took place of the key questions of domestic policy, be it on the situation in the country and extricating it from the crisis situation, on interethnic relations and the concept of the new Union treaty, or on the reorganization of the structures of power and the strengthening of the Soviet constitutional system.

If one is to speak about Soviet foreign policy, then, as is known, the Congress of Peoples Deputies of the USSR proposed a statement that contains a clear and firm confirmation of the unchanging nature of Soviet foreign policy. To avoid any possible false interpretations we confirm from this platform that the world community can continue to orient itself upon this official statement by our country's supreme body of state power.

It is understandable, comrades, that the decisions of the Congress of People's Deputies must lie at the foundation of the activity of the Supreme Soviet in the immediate future and in the longer term. We must therefore make decisions now, beginning today, on a number of urgent issues linked with the instructions given by the congress, the instructions that have been given to the legislature. This concerns both building up legislative activity and also ensuring that the implementation of the laws is monitored. Strictly speaking these two lines, these two directions, make up the main content of the draft decision you have on the organization of the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet in implementing the decisions of the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies.

I think that all comrades have been given and have had an opportunity to look at this draft decision. The major block of urgent instructions to the Union's legislature is contained in the congress' decision on the situation in the country and on urgent measures to overcome the crisis in socioeconomic and political matters.

You remember, comrades, that the congress deemed it necessary for the provisions of the law relating to the general principles of local self-government and local economic management in the USSR to be supplemented with the intention of creating an integral and effective system of executive power throughout the whole vertical line of government; for legislative acts to be adopted on taking things out of state hands, on the privatization of enterprises, on demonopolization, on the protection of industrial and intellectual property, on enterprises and the protection of consumers' rights; for setting limits on external indebtedness for the year 1991 and for subsequent years during the discussion of the Union budget; for adopting legislative acts aimed at creating favorable conditions for the foreign policy activity of the republics and enterprises and for direct investments of foreign capital; for examining the draft laws on conversion and military reform; for working out and adopting laws to be

completed which ensure that a reform of the judicial and legal system is carried out and that the effectiveness of the activity of all law-enforcement bodies is raised.

As you know, the Supreme Soviet already has certain drafts and options for draft legislation on a number of the tasks mapped out by the congress. This is known by virtually all members of the Supreme Soviet. On certain problems we are going to have to begin work anew, with a clean sheet, so to speak. Because of this the draft decision you have envisages that instructions will be given to the government to put forward for consideration by the next session, the fifth session, appropriate draft legislative acts and first and foremost acts concerning the transition to a market economy. At the same time it has to be noted that immediately after the congress presidential decrees were issued on setting up stabilization funds, on introducing a sales tax and on the first steps in the land reform. Certain other measures were adopted to normalize economic life and improve the country's financial situation.

At the Council of the Federation session that took place last week an agreement for this year on the stabilization of the social and economic situation was approved in principle. The president is sending the text of the relevant agreement to the Union republics for signing and although not everything here has yet been agreed and arranged, the program which has been worked out by the congress and the measures it has mapped out are beginning to make a way for themselves. Achieving this is not a simple matter, comrades, and I think that you will hear today what Comrade Kucherenko is going to say here. I can say that some issues have not yet been fully agreed but the important thing is that the movement has begun and it is going to be important for us in our legislative work and in our consideration of budgetary matters to widen this bridgehead and to resolve some questions ourselves having taken upon ourselves solving them.

A thorough discussion took place at the congress on the general concept of the Union treaty. The congress deepened our understanding of the present state of interethnic relations as a whole. The understanding that those laws of the republics which do not contradict the constitution and the legislative acts of the Union will operate until such time as a union treaty is signed has the nature of a principle. In practice this ought to mean the beginning of the end of the war of the laws which is still having a most pernicious effect today.

Clearly it is time to extinguish the incipient war of the budgets, too. We perceived that during the closing days of the congress and we perceive it now, after the congress.

During the discussion of these problems the congress instructed the Supreme Soviet and the president of the country jointly with the supreme bodies of state power of the Union republics to determine without delay measures to ensure the normal functioning of all links in the system of state bodies during the period up to the conclusion of a new union treaty and also—as an immediate matter—to agree to a demarcation of powers between the Union and the subjects of the federation and between the Union and each subject of the federation individually. Such acts have now been prepared, comrades. In particular a decree has been prepared on strengthening the position of the militia and a whole number of other acts where additional work is going to be needed on the demarcation of powers between the union and the republics.

In connection with the introduction of changes and additions to the USSR Constitution the congress gave the USSR Supreme Soviet instructions to work out and to adopt legislative acts regulating the organization, the powers and the procedures governing the activity of the Council of the Federation and the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR. With due consideration for this, the draft that has been handed out to you envisages that the Supreme Soviet Presidium will be instructed to determine the procedure for preparing the relevant bills and to ensure that they are considered as a matter of immediacy at the fifth session.

It is going to be necessary for the committees and commissions of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet to present a draft law regulating the activity of the Monitoring Chamber of the USSR—this is now going to be a body, a very powerful body, of the Supreme Soviet itself, a draft law on the supreme arbitration court, and proposals for changes and additions to the standing orders of both the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR with due consideration for the practical experience we have built up. Generally speaking a great many changes have accumulated and we are going to have to work hard.

In making the decision on holding USSR referendums on the question of preserving the renewed Union and on the private ownership of land the congress instructed the Supreme Soviet to determine the dates of the referendums and measures to ensure holding them. This problem, too, clearly ought to be discussed at the current session.

As you know, the congress considered a draft law on the procedure for recalling a USSR people's deputy and handed it over to the Supreme Soviet for further work to be done taking into account the observations that had been expressed and for it finally to be adopted. The fulfillment of this task is entrusted to the committee on issues concerning the work of the soviets in the expectation that it will be possible finally to adopt the law at the next session.

Besides these and other direct instructions the congress documents contain many provisions the implementation of which to some degree or another can only be ensured by the Supreme Soviet or under its control. Of fundamental importance, therefore, is Paragraph 11 in the proposed draft where the requirements are set out that

are intended to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of the decisions of the congress: these include instructions to the committees of the Supreme Soviet and the commissions of the chambers to hear at their sittings reports from the leaders of ministries, departments, and other state bodies and organizations and also—and I draw your attention to this point—to conduct on a regular basis checks by deputies in the localities. At the same time the most important issues linked with fulfilling laws and other decisions of economic and social importance, items of an ecological nature and measures connected with stepping up the campaign against crime are naturally going to have to be put forward for consideration by the USSR Supreme Soviet and its sessions.

There is another point I would like to recall. Before the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies and during the congress the deputies—all people's deputies—put forward more than 600 proposals on further improving the work of the Supreme Soviet, the committees, the commissions, and the deputies locally. The draft decision you have before you therefore includes a separate paragraph containing an instruction that all ideas and observations that have been received will be studied most carefully—we have already studied them, this is a huge amount of serious material—and that a set of proposals dealing with the further improvement of the work of the Supreme Soviet and its bodies will be presented at the next session—at the start of the next session.

[Announcer] Comrade Lukyanov answered deputies' questions. The draft decision on organizating the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet in implementing the decisions of the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies was then adopted as a basis. Further work will be done on this draft in the commitees and commissions over the next few days and it will be finally adopted at the end of the session.

[Lukyanov] Today we are embarking upon the concluding phase of our examination of the draft unionwide forecast of the functioning of the country's economy during 1991, of the state plan according to the spheres under the authority of the USSR, and of the Union budget for 1991 and the fulfillment of the budget for 1989.

It has to be said that this material has been worked through in the committees and in the commissions on a preliminary basis over a long period of time—in all committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet. On 26 November the draft plan and budget were considered at a joint session of the chambers. No doubt you recall that reports were given at that sitting by Comrades Abalkin, Maslyukov, and Pavlov in the presence of a large number of deputies. An analysis of the economy was made, both for the country as a whole and for individual regions. Everything was set out in the session here. On the results of the discussion the Commission for Planning, Budget and Finance together with other commissions and committees were instructed to set up a coordinating commission to draw together the observations and proposals expressed by USSR people's deputies and to prepare relevant conclusions and draft documents.

You have all of this material in your hands, comrades. It is a very large quantity of material and I will tell you it is difficult to understand. It has been given to you. The crisis that arose while drawing up the budgets of the Union and the republics was a subject of careful discussion not just in the Supreme Soviet. I have reported this to you. So as a result of the work that has been done by the committees and commissions the materials which you have have been prepared. They need to be commented upon, of course, and I think you will hear the detailed report on this question prepared by Comrade Kucherenko, Viktor Grigoryevich, chairman of the Commission for Planning, Budget and Finance, before we discuss all of this here tomorrow at a joint sitting of the commissions. What do you think, comrades? Do you have any objections? Then Comrade Kucherenko has the floor. Thank you, Viktor Grigoryevich.

Budget Commission Chairman Kucherenko Speaks

LD0801235391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1845 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Speech by Viktor Kucherenko, chairman of the Council of the Union Planning Budget, and Finance Commission, at the USSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 8 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] First and foremost I want to say that work on the budget in the Supreme Soviet was carried out over a long period and in incredibly difficult conditions. Having created a set of laws that make it possible to draw up the budget on completely new principles, relying on the demarcations adopted (?in them) of the functions of the Union, of the republics, of the local soviets, the Supreme Soviet tried to act only from the position of the law and the USSR Constitution.

In reality we came up against the incredible situation where individual republics, oblasts, and regions began to draw up budgets on the basis of their own laws and their understanding, rescinding by their own decisions and, at times, simply by instructions, the laws of the USSR, disregarding objective economic laws and disregarding the fact that it is impossible in the single economic space that the Union is, and with the state of prices in the country being what it is, to draw up an isolated budget of the Union or of a republic or a local soviet without linking it with the budget of a neighboring region and without linkage with the lower and the higher budget and without grave economic consequences and financial chaos.

In spite of common sense, this process went ahead in the country. The most dangerous thing, which is already looming, is that an immense mass of money is flooding into the goods market as a result of that immense increase in the population's income adopted by the

Supreme Soviet, an increase that in my view is beyond the country's capabilities. In the republics, in the regions, and in the enterprises more and more new decisions are being adopted that involve paying out money that is not backed up with goods.

What is most surprising is that those who most of all are making such decisions are demanding that those who are printing money should be called to order, that strict control should be established over money issue, as if by a decision of the Supreme Soviet or the Council of the Federation the printing press can be halted. It switches itself on, without asking anyone, as soon as at some level, at enterprises, or in the Supreme Soviet decisions are made on additional expenditure and payments: The working man comes to the cash office, he needs to be paid money.

In this confused situation patiently and over a long period, and I feel in vain, we put our trust in the Council of the Federation, which was always promising an economic agreement to put an end to this lack of coordination. The document which could have been and which we were obliged with a sense of responsibility to the country to sign in September in two to three days, has essentially still not been signed.

There is such indecision, such a lack of coordination—and may the members of the Soviet of the Federation forgive me—and if they do not listen to the specialists, then we can hardly rely on this body in the future.

In their final conclusion, the committees and commissions also pointed out a range of fundamental factors connected with the formation of the budget revenue. It should also be noted that the draft budget calculations provided for suspending allowances against profits tax set out in the USSR law. This would have released approximately 5 billion rubles [R] for the budget. However, the deputies did not support this proposal. [passage omitted on misunderstandings which will have to be sorted out]

Many arguments and remarks were prompted by the expenditure section of the Union budget. It was proposed that it would amount to R276 billion.

Most clauses here were devoted to spending on defense, on the financing of the national economy, and on foreign economic activity. Committees and commissions studied especially closely the proposal on the allocation of R98.6 billion to defense and defense needs. Although they realized that the following year there will be a need to provide for additional spending on things such as improvement of pension provision for the military, resettlement of troops in connection with their withdrawal from East European countries and Mongolia, and also with expending foreign currency on maintaining them while they are stationed abroad, it was nevertheless noted that it was necessary to fulfill the Supreme Soviet decision on the Basic Guidelines for the Stabilization of the National Economy to cut military spending.

At the same time, in the conditions of a desperate struggle of committees for additional budget allocations, many people, as a rule, turned their gaze to defense spending. In this issue, it is necessary, as the saying goes, to dot all the i's and cross all the t's. Indeed, the policy of strengthening confidence building measures and of practical implementation of the defense doctrine proposes cutting military spending down to the limits of reasonable sufficiency.

Military spending has been cut by R6 billion to bring it within the limits of reasonable sufficiency clearly set out in the drafts, plans, and in the budget for 1991.

Further cuts in defense spending can lead to interruptions in the functioning of the complicated body of the military industry complex, which may have unpredictable and serious consequences, let alone the fact that the country's security and military strategic parity may be damaged.

Nevertheless, the committees and commissions came out in favor of allocating R96 billion to defense—not R98 billion—that is, in favor of further cutting military spending by R2 billion.

The allocations of R1.8 billion for the maintenance of the organs of state power and administration, which have been set out in the Union budget and calculated allowing for a 30 percent reduction on the basis of the currently operating network of the Union economic bodies [as heard], of course require further revision. And we did not try to make any final decision, hoping that when their structure is presented, defined, and confirmed at the end of the first quarter of this year these allocations will be revised. And they will be considerably less, of course.

Deputies examined in particular detail the financing of the social and cultural measures. It is planned to spend R123 billion for these purposes, including R20 billion from the union budget. In particular, measures aimed at protecting childhood and motherhood began to be implemented on 1 January 1991, in accordance with decisions that have been made. Implementating them will require additional spending, totalling R5.6 billion. [passage omitted]

The government's proposals to tighten up as much as possible the attitude toward releasing resources from the Uion budget for capital construction have been welcomed, given that the draft plan provides for capital investment of R262 billion in the whole of the national economy, having taken all sources of financing, including enterprises, into account. This is already 14 percent lower than the expected level of 1990. All the same, the limit of the centralized capital investments will in our country amount to R52 billion or 20 percent of the total volume. It is envisioned that only R14 billion will be made available from the budget—R17.5 billion for Chernobyl, R802 million for the areas adjoining the Aral Sea, and R6.2 billion for social measures in the sphere of the union economy. The remaining R38 billion should

be financed from the resources of the interested enterprises, organizations, and local authorities.

The creation of the fund for stabilizing the economy, amounting to R114 billion, to be divided up equally between the republics and the Union, represents a distinguishing feature of the 1991 financial system. The all-Union fund for stabilizating the economy is used for financial support of individual enterprises in the period of transition to the market, to finance investment programs in the interests of all republics, and to make subsidies available to individual republics. [passage omitted]

The deputies, while regarding positively the idea of setting up a stabilization fund, noted that it is essential to look very carefully at the sources and mechanism for setting it up so that this does not cause a reduction in labor productivity or affect the independence of enterprises in the economic sphere. It was proposed to set up the stabilization fund on a voluntary and returnable basis. In connection with this, it is necessary to elaborate a mechanism for settling economic relations between the state and the enterprises. At the same time, while examining ways of setting up the stabilizing fund, the deputies also came up against this factor: At the present time the enterprises are adopting lowered profit plans and ensuring for themselves conditions for considerably overfulfilling them and are thus undermining the revenue basis of the budget.

At the same time billions of rubles have accumulated in the accounts of state enterprises that today lie like a dead weight pushing up prices on the industrial market. To resolve this contradictory factor what should be done is to step up work to destatify property, directing 50 percent of the remnants of economic incentive funds to buy up state property and to use part of enterprises' incomes for this purpose.

Analyzing and discussing ways of increasing the revenue part of the budget, the committees and commissions noted that the national economy, even in its current state, has quite a lot of reserves which, if they were put to use, would make it possible to add considerably to the state coffers.

Three consistently interlinked tasks are the main ones that need to be resolved in the draft plan and budget that are being discussed today. The first of these is to stabilize the economy by means of restoring the health of the finances, the normalization of the internal and external market, preventing a large drop in production with all the consequences stemming from that. The second is to implement a complex set of measures for the start of the operation of the market as the main link in stabilization. The third is to carry out structural transformations of social production in order as soon as possible to restructure it toward intensifying the social direction of the economy.

Laws of the USSR adopted recently on enterprises, land, leasing, cooperatives, taxes and others, together with their vast positive content have also introduced some destablizing factors into our economy in its present stage. The expansion of autonomy was taken by many people as an opportunity for lowering responsibility for the final result of production, lowering discipline, and in some places for dishonest enrichment. And here it must be stated bluntly that the top echelons of executive power—including ourselves, the Supreme Soviet, as legislators—did not display the necessary resoluteness and firmness in adopting measures and inadequately assessed the situation that was arising.

All of this was used in the political struggle at all levels without exception and as a consequence led to the sorry results in the sphere of internal policy and economics.

In the situation which has arisen the draft plan and budget which are being discussed today, having been carefully examined in the committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet, having been added to and worked over, should be the initial foundation on which the new model of our economy will be built.

Of the R975 billion of national income, it is planned to direct 87 percent for current consumption and nonpoductive construction and only 13 percent for development. I will not dwell in detail on the centralized measures to raise the people's standard of living; they are set out in detail in the government's reports and in the documents which have been given to you. I will say only that the volume of resources allocated for these aims—and this is R275 billion—is one-third more than the payment of benefits in 1990.

There is a sharp reduction in allocation for investment policy. With reductions in subsidies for production construction compared with the current year by 27 percent, capital investment in the nonproduction sphere is increasing by 22 percent. Compared with the 1990 plan, it is planned to increase capital investment in the agro-industrial complex from all sources of financing by five percent. It is planned to increase by 20 percent the allocation of funds for individual housing construction.

Measures being taken in the sphere of increasing the production of consumer goods: The growth in group eight should be 4.5 percent while the rate of growth in the share of group a decreases by four percent. This makes it possible to increase the volume of consumer goods compared with last year by three to five percent and of nonfood goods by 10-15 percent.

Alongside the positions that have been set out and which have a positive aspect, the draft plan and budget unfortunately have a certain negative side. This is, first of all, a reduction, compared with the current year, in the volume of the gross national product, in the national income used for consumption and the accumulation of products, in industry and in the volume of freight carriage by all means of transport. The return on assets continues to fall both in the national economy as a whole and in industry and agriculture; volumes of extraction of oil and coal and production of petrol and diesel fuel,

main line locomotives and freight cars, cotton and flax fiber, furs, and other products are decreasing.

An extremely tense picture is taking shape with regard to the supply of material-technical resources. Resources of rolled ferrous metal, steel pipes, timber materials, cement, chemical and petrochemical products, and fuel and energy resources have been defined as being lower than the level of last year, and all this is made worse by the very serious foreign currency situation and, consequently, by the forced reduction of purchases of imported goods.

Implementation of the Basic Guidelines for the transition to market relations will be accomplished with great difficulty in the year that has just begun. Carrying out the exceptional measures specified at the first stage of the program is already now in doubt. It is proving impossible to reduce the state budget deficit, to balance the population's monetary income and expenditure, to sharply increase the production of consumer goods, including through the conversion of military manufacturing, to stabilize mutual deliveries between enterpises and to restrain rapid price increases. [passage omitted]

Kucherenko Answers Question on Budget Allocations

LD0801225891 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Question by Deputy Sobchak and answer by Viktor Kucherenko, chairman of the Council of the Union's Planning, Budget, and Finance Commission, at the USSR Supreme Soviet session held in Moscow on 8 January; from the "USSR Supreme Soviet Diary" program—recorded]

[Text] [Sobchak] Esteemed Viktor Grigoriyevich [Kucherenko], with regard to your comments on the careful study of the budget, and your assertion that this budget is the basis for forming a fundamentally new approach and a new economy, I would like to asks you two interrelated questions.

The first question: When we arrived here in the summer of 1989, the figure for military expenditure reported to us according to the budget was 17 billion rubles [R]. Today, this figure is given as 96 billion...

[Unidentified deputy, interrupting]...seventeen percent...

[Sobchak, continuing] ...so from what... that is to say, where are we going...

[Kucherenko, interrupting] The question is clear....

[Sobchak, continuing] ...and what is the aim of the Union—I will repeat this again—what is under discussion is the Union budget and the Union state...

[Kucherenko, interrupting] Yes....

[Sobchak, continuing] ...is it that we are getting ready to fight with everybody? That is the first question.

[Kucherenko] I will answer you. I will answer you.

[Sobchak] That is the first question. And the second question: Is it really possible to seriously discuss such a budget which contains 45 billion for the national economy, 96 billion for military expenditure, 359 million for our own culture and art, and 400 million to provide free aid to foreign states. I consider immoral such a...

[Lukyanov, interrupting] Stop! Anatoliy... Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, to begin with I request.... Let us agree, comrades, let us get rid of emotionality.

[Kucherenko] Well, on the military budget. First, when we arrived here, the military budget was not 17 billion but 77 billion for your information.

[Unidentified deputy, interrupting] The 17 is 17 percent.

[Kucherenko, continuing] And we confirmed expenditure in 1990—budget amounting to R70.5 billion—we reduced it by 7 billion.

The next stage, for this year, 1991, fulfilling the decisions of the second congress where it was put down for us to reduce military expenditure by 15 percent, the reduction of the military budget will amount to R65 billion. In connection with the price changes known to you, the sum of expenditure, that is, of R65 billion, became R98 billion.

For national economy in the country, of 550 billion of the common budget in the country, R215 billion are being directed to the national economy. As for culture, as you say, expenditure of R123 billion is being directed to all social and cultural measures in the country. Of these, R103 billion are directed by the republics and 19 billion are directed by the Union budget to those measures which, by request, have remained in the Union budget: that is, the Bolshoy Theater, the Lenin Library, and then even the major Leningrad... [changes thought] I do not recall this... the Mariynskiy [Leningrad theater of opera and ballet].... I cannot confirm this. That is the state of affairs. So, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, please come and we will consider... [changes thought] so that you do not doubt these issues and these figures for a moment.

Further on Deputies' Questions, Upcoming Agenda

LD0801121491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by "Mayak" correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy from the Kremlin on the USSR Supreme Soviet session]

[Excerpts] Half an hour ago, following the recess, USSR Supreme Soviet session resumed. One of the main issues

to be resolved during this USSR Supreme Soviet session—the Union budget and plan for 1991—is now being examined.

Deputy Kucherenko, USSR Supreme Soviet Planning and Budget Commission chairman, delivered a report. [passage omitted] Deputies were presented with draft Union budget figures for 1991.

Following Kucherenko's report deputies asked him many questions. A substantial proportion were, perhaps, devoted to our country's 1991 military budget. Moreover, people's deputies noted that the figures cited by various sources on our defense expenditure both for this year and last year differ. Kucherenko gave the following explanation:

For 1991 it is planned to allocate R98.568 billion for defense. However, USSR Supreme Soviet commissions and committees have proposed reducing this amount by R2 billion, for a total of R96.5 billion. Last year a considerably smaller amount was allocated for these purposes. There has been a revision of prices resulting in the need to allocate larger amounts in terms of rubles.

This is the explanation that was given here at the USSR Supreme Soviet session. Well, there will of course be a more detailed examination of our budget, both of the military and other articles, tomorrow when there is a joint session of the committees and commissions here in the Kremlin.

Overall, during the session's work—it is planned to complete it approximately by the middle of next week—it has been proposed to examine a number of other important issues, including organizing USSR Supreme Soviet work on implementing the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies decisions. These decisions provide a series of specific instructions to USSR Supreme Soviet.

A resolution will also be adopted on organizing and enacting measures to ensure that a USSR referendum on preserving the USSR is held. On Saturday 12 January it is also planned to hear a USSR Foreign Ministry report on the situation developing as a result of events in the Persian Gulf. The current session will ratify international treaties to which our state is a party.

At the moment Kucherenko, Planning and Budget Commission chairman, continues to reply to people's deputies questions on the plan and budget for the current year. We will be reporting on how the session continues with its work today in "Mayak" and First Program news bulletins.

KGB Budget Revealed for 'First Time'

LD0901123591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The fourth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet is continuing its work in the Kremlin. It is discussing the country's plan and budget. For the first time in a long time we are entering the new financial year without a confirmed state plan. Another factor for which the words, the first time, are suitable: the sum of expenditure on the maintenance of the KGB has at last been decoded in the draft budget—it is 4.9 billion rubles [R]. More than half of this is earmarked for border troops.

According to newspaper reports, defense expenditure in the draft comes to R96.5 billion. It is an impressive figure, but it is nevertheless R2 billion less than was proposed by the Council of Ministers.

Apart from discussing the budget and plan the session will also examine the issue of the new government cabinet, maybe next week.

Maslyukov Reports on 'Interim' Economic Accord

LD0901101991 Moscow TASS in English 1004 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—"A session of the Federation Council with the participation of representatives of all republics, which is scheduled for January 12, will focus on an interim economic agreement for 1991," Yuriy Maslyukov, first Soviet deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee, said at a joint session of parliamentary committees and commissions today.

The economic agreement is expected to regulate relations between the centre and the republics and become the legal foundation for stabilising the country's economy before the signing of a new Union treaty.

Maslyukov expressed the view that "a period of soberness" had come after numerous conflicts over the Union budget between the centre and republics. Maslyukov said that "a vast amount of work was accomplished, in which all republics and the Soviet president took part".

Maslyukov said that the first and a key stage in this work was completed on Tuesday [8 January]: Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin signed the interim economic agreement for 1991. This agreement "regulates the main contentious issues which denied us an opportunity to elaborate the final variant of the country's plan and budget for 1991."

According to Maslyukov, "some changes can be made in the agreement at the forthcoming meeting of the Federation Council. Most importantly, the government, the Soviet president and the leaders of the Russian Federation think that a well-considered correlation between the sovereignties and rights of the republics and those of the Union as a whole was found."

Nishanov Reports on Situation in Lithuania

LD0801215191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1845 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Speech by Council of Nationalities Chairman Rafik Nishanov at the USSR Supreme Soviet session on 8 January in Moscow; from the "At the USSR Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] According to reports coming from Vilnius, yesterday and today the situation in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic has sharply deteriorated. Events developing there deserve your attention, because it is hard to say how they may develop in the coming days and hours.

Some time ago, the leadership of the Lithuanian Republic decided to significantly increase the price of virtually every type of food. There were reasons for that, since the economic position of that republic, as, incidentally, of several others, too, had worsened sharply. It marked the beginning of the manifestation of a considerable instability in that republic's economy. There are many reasons for this, including the disruption of the republic's established economic ties with other regions in the country. The republic's leadership, the Supreme Soviet and government decided to introduce new prices on 7 January this year. To all appearances, the measure was inadequately prepared, and, as events have shown, after the announcement of that decision, the overwhelming majority of the republic's population took a sharply negative view of it. They [the republic government] were totally unable to sweep away the increased tension by offering compensation, because there was actually no recompense. A large segment of the population turned out to have been hurt in the most direct manner.

Numerous instances of violations of the basic humanitarian and political human rights, acts of outrage at the graves of Soviet soldiers, defilement of monuments, and instances of disregard for the basic provisions of the USSR Constitution also foster dissatisfaction among the population. All this has served to spur the open indignation of many inhabitants of Vilnius and other towns, and in a number of labor collectives.

Yesterday, warning strikes took place at places of work. Today, tens of thousands of Vilnius inhabitants came to the square in front of Republican Supreme Soviet building and held a protest demonstration against the decision by Lithuanian authorities to raise prices.

The demonstrators demanded answers to the questions worrying the people of Lithuania. Calls were made for the government to resign, for the Supreme Soviet to lay down its powers, for Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, to resign. Excesses, and clashes with the police took place. Water cannons were used. Some people were injured. But no one was killed.

In these conditions, the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic decided to revoke the decision to raise prices. This was announced to those assembled, and it was also announced on television and radio to the entire population of the republic. However, judging from the latest reports, people remain dissatisfied with those statements and intentions. They resolutely demand that the Supreme Soviet lay down its powers, that the government resign, and that effective measures be taken to put the economy in order and ensure a stable situation in the Republic.

According to the latest reports, all of these questions are now being actively discussed at meetings and rallies at industrial enterprises and establishments. Judging by everything, people have lost confidence that those responsible for the organization of the lives of people in the republic are able to take effective measures.

The country's leadership is attentively following the development of the situation in the republic. It is holding consultations and intends to take all the necessary measures in order to stabilize the situation and to prevent it from developing in an unfavorable manner.

As yet, we do not have the amount of information necessary to draw more definite conclusions, but Union bodies and republican organs are undertaking measures to ensure that people's normal life is not threatened. Thank you.

Draft Employment Law Adopted 'On The Whole'

LD0901012691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent Tsygankov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputies today began the second reading of the draft law on the fundamentals of the legislation of the USSR and the Union republics on the employment of the population. This substantially reworked document has five sections and comprises 39 articles. Many of them have been brought into line with international standards. It also takes account of the laws on ownership, on public associations, on pension provision, and on the social protection of the population, adopted by the Union legislature.

At the evening session, the deputies embarked on a discussion of criticisms and amendments to some articles of the draft law. On the whole, it was adopted by a majority vote, although it was decided to continue the debate on Article 27—on social guarantees for the working people—at the next sitting, when the laws will be finally endorsed. [video shows the electronic vote recorder indicating: For—338, Against—23, with the abstained figure still changing]

Then, at the request of the legislators, Rafik Nishanovich Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of nationalities,

informed them about the situation that had developed as of today in South Ossetia and Lithuania.

Laptev Says Interim Cabinet Expected in February

LD0801134291 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Andrey Orlov]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—The Soviet parliament is unlikely to have time to endorse members of the president's new cabinet before the end of the fourth session, Ivan Laptev, chairman of the Council of the Union, one of the chambers of the Soviet parliament, told TASS here today.

The maximum that the deputies will be able to do within the remaining week will be to endorse a budget of the Union and confirm the appointment of a head of the cabinet, Laptev said.

The other personnel appointments, he believes, will be postponed until the parliament's fifth session, which is to open on February 16-17.

Laptev emphasised that the cabinet of ministers will be an "interim" one and will function during an interim period which, in his view, will last for six months or a year.

"The process of economic privatisation and successive abolition of ministries and departments is expected to gather momentum during the period," Laptev said.

"The president is unlikely to raise the question of structure and functions of a USSR security council at this session," Laptev added in response to a TASS question.

Lukyanov Expects New Cabinet in 'Next Few Days'

LD0801143891 Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Boris Zverev]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—The Soviet parliament, resuming its session in the Kremlin today, will select a new cabinet within the next few days.

"We expect to discuss the ruling cast of the USSR cabinet before the end of the fourth session," Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov told lawmakers opening the afternoon session today. He said he discussed the issue with President Mikhail Gorbachev.

This morning Lukyanov said the current session might end by January 14-15.

Soyuz Leader Urges Cabinet Decision Before Budget

LD0801224791 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Exchange between Soyuz leader Viktor Alksnis and USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov at the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 8 January; from the "USSR Supreme Soviet Diary" program—recorded]

[Text] [Alksnis] Anatoliy Ivanovich, does it not seem to you that we are now putting the cart before the horse, for if we are now dealing with, or starting to endorse, the state plan and budget, we still do not have a cabinet of ministers. In other words, first we present a plan, and then the government will give us a statement, but we cannot fulfil it because we do not agree with it. Perhaps we should first form a cabinet of ministers which will present us with the government's plan and then we can align the budget with it.

[Lukyanov] I have had a talk with the president on this question. The plan and budget must be adopted for any cabinet because the country cannot live without a plan, especially of a budget. As far as the cabinet is concerned, then clearly, if the president advances, and he is intending to advance these proposals to you, they will be examined before the end of this session.

Lukyanov Promises Action on Emigration Legislation

LD0801230691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Exchange between USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy Sergey A. Tsyplayev and Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov at the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 8 January; from the "USSR Supreme Soviet Diary"—recorded]

[Text] [Tsyplayev] Esteemed Anatoliy Ivanovich: My question concerns a law, the fate of which, unfortunately, gives reason for charges of bureaucratic red tape against the Supreme Soviet. I have in mind the law on entry and exit. The fact of the matter is that the second reading is dragging out to one year now, and the Supreme Soviet is not saying yes or no. My question is this: is it possible to move on to a second reading, or, if the International Affairs Committee finds insurmountable difficulties, then can we at least hear the committee's report on what the reasons and the complications are? Thank you.

[Lukyanov] I agree with you. This will be done at the start of the next session, definitely, because this question, you probably know this from international information, is assessed in different ways in our country and abroad.

Lukyanov Says Ryzhkov Walking, Reading

LD0801225791 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Remarks by USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov at the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 8 January; from the "USSR Supreme Soviet Diary" program—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, I can tell you that the state of health of Nikolay Ivanovich is now better. He can already get up and walk. He has begun to read, although, of course, it is necessary to restrict his reading somewhat. He is a man with a bottomless interest in information, as you recall. We are very carefully following, as are all the doctors, and every day I receive information about his state of health.

We had some anxieties just before New Year, but there are no such anxieties now.

Supreme Soviet 8 Jan Proceedings Summarized

LD0801222291

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian at 1845 GMT on 8 January carries the "At the USSR Supreme Soviet Session" program which includes recorded highlights of the proceedings of the 8 January USSR Supreme Soviet session in the Kremlin in Moscow. The session is chaired by USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov.

At 1846 GMT, Lukyanov gives an assessment of the Congress of Peoples Deputies. He outlines the legislative acts which are to be discussed and adopted at this Supreme Soviet session. Some of the laws already exist in draft form while others have to be started from scratch, he says.

Lukyanov then explains that the president is to send various documents to the republics concerning budget provisions; this is a difficult area but progress is being made. The war of budgets must be ended, he declares. He says that the congress has given the Supreme Soviet various instructions which the Supreme Soviet will proceed to implement by means of legislation. The question of referendums will also be discussed.

Lukyanov reports that over 600 suggestions have been made on ways to improve the work of the Supreme Soviet; these will be formalized and proposed.

At 1901 GMT, the announcer gives a brief summary of further remarks by Lukyanov.

At 1902 GMT, Lukyanov makes a few remarks on economic documentation prepared by committees and commissions. He introduces Kucherenko who will comment on this.

At 1903 GMT, Kucherenko, chairman of the Council of the Union Plan, Budget and Finance Commission, says the budget was drawn up in very difficult circumstances, at a time when various republics and regions are ignoring Union laws. The regions are allowing inflation to rage onward. The Union budget is based on existing Union laws, he explains. The economic situation is unstable, he believes.

Kucherenko then cites various figures from the Union budget. He explains that output is falling in many sectors and imports are declining due to a shortage of foreign currency.

At 1925 GMT, the announcer summarizes Kucherenko's further remarks. The session will debate the plan and budget tomorrow and go through them article by article the following day, the presenter explains.

At 1926 GMT, Gritsenko, chairman of the Council of the Union Labor, Prices and Social Policy Commission, talks about unemployment prospects and the legislation which is being prepared to deal with the consequences. Work is being coordinated with the republics, he assures them.

At 1937 GMT, the announcer says that the deputies discussed the employment legislation article by article.

At 1938 GMT, Nishanov, chairman of the Council of Nationalities, speaks about the situation in Lithuania. Prices of many staples have risen sharply there. The population is not happy with this, he warns. Many human and political rights are being trampled on and monuments to Soviet troops are being desecrated. Enterprises are striking in protest. A demonstration has been held in Vilnius. The price increases have been called off but the situation remains these. People have lost confidence in the republican leadership. The country's leadership must draw the appropriate conclusions, Nishanov concludes.

AT 1943 GMT, Lukyanov ends the session. The program ends.

Political & Social

U.S. Statement on Troop Movements Denied

LD0901160791 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—"I know nothing about the decision of the Soviet Government to send additional troops to Moldavia, Georgia, Armenia, the Ukraine and the Baltics. Such a decision simply does not exist," the Soviet Defence Ministry's head for information said today.

Valeriy Manilov commented on a statement by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater who claimed on Tuesday that sending troops to the above republics represented a serious step toward an escalation of tensions inside the USSR.

According to Manilov, the Soviet military leadership did not give any instructions to send additional troops to these regions. However, pursuant to the December 1, 1990 decree of the USSR president "on some acts on issues of defence passed by Union republics", commandants of relevant military districts ordered the use of troops already deployed in Moldavia, Georgia, Armenia, the Ukraine and the Baltics in order to give practical aid to military commissariats in these districts.

These troops will help enforce the draft and organise a search and return of soldiers who defected from their military units. Several paratroop units from neighbouring cities were sent only to Lithuania to enforce the draft there.

"So, the statement by the White House spokesman that Soviet troops were sent to the above regions does not correspond to reality," the general said.

Calls for Military-Imposed 'Order' Criticized

PM0901130791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Pavel Gutiontov "Political Diary": "The Order That Must Be Instilled"]

[Text] On the morning of 8 January, having taken Christmas off as an all-Russian holiday, the mail delivered a daily newspaper to me for the first time this year. But, for some reason, just one.

I was just coming out of the elevator when I met the mail carrier, a nice, elderly woman, and asked her a number of questions in this regard. She kindly gave me a piece of advice—to take all my subscription receipts directly to the post office and clear it all up there—and also complained about the burdens of her job. I asked her by how much her wages had been raised this year, and the mail carrier replied that she did not know exactly, but it is being said that some 20 rubles [R] have been added. And any desire to kick up a fuss over deliveries left me at once.

What is going on, dear comrades? Is it because of a wretched R20 extra for the mail carrier that the monopolist ministry (together, it is true, with the paper manufacturers) has forced the cost of a subscription to be doubled or tripled? At any rate, from what my interlocutor said it is becoming perfectly clear to me why, having obtained colossal and as yet quite unmerited proceeds, the Ministry of Communications will this year deliver periodicals to us in a far worse way than last year.

Why stand on ceremony with us?

As an old acquaintance of mine said, we can speak frankly among this audience. So let us say frankly to ourselves: Public opinion is now being inclined intensively toward the idea of "instilling order" as the only way out of the crisis. And what is meant is the order that can only be instilled by "the man with the rifle," as there is no longer any hope in all the rest. But we have placed too much on the scales, which are swinging dangerously today. Whereas it is possible to understand the trust in force on the part of those who have become overwrought and frightened by empty counters, alarming prospects, and vague threats from all rostrums, I personally refuse to understand the makers of these vague threats. In reply to the question of whether the Army should now rectify the politicians' mistakes, even the candid Colonel Petrushenko answered equally directly: "Yes, unfortunately." It has to be thought that the question of newspaper deliveries to me will be resolved by introducing a military garrison into the post office (chekist ambushes have already been set up in foodstore lobbies). Incidentally, a start has been made: Special purpose militia detachment subunits have occupied the premises of a Riga publishing house—true, the new USSR minister of internal affairs has not yet given an intelligible reply concerning on whose orders this was done...

Although, maybe he has. But the information has not yet reached me because, if you recall, I have not been getting any newspapers this year, and Central Television has been depoliticized according to the concept of, once again, the new chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and provides me exclusively with positive emotions in entertaining programs...

At the same time it would be interesting to see FROM WHOM this very order is to be protected. From democracy, so it turns out. At any rate, the campaign to discredit the soviets at all levels in a number of press organs has attained unprecedented scope and intensity. We are being persistently pushed toward the idea that newspapers have not been brought to me by the present Moscow City Soviet, rather than specifically Deputy Communications Minister Yevgeniy Manyakin, who over the past two years has given us all so many unfulfilled promises, deceived us so many times, and failed to apologize so completely that any self-respecting parliament would long ago have parted company with such a deputy minister.

This, in fact, is the point. Order is undoubtedly needed. It is necessary to strengthen executive power, and in this connection I cannot but welcome the strengthening of the president's commanding powers. But the responsibility of executive power for the decisions which it has been permitted to adopt must also increase to the same degree. At present, so it seems, order is more frequently violated by precisely those who most yearn for it.

A strong government must have a strong parliament above it. Throughout the world deputies are not elected to supplant the government but mainly to monitor how far that government follows the policy elaborated by the deputies—Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov spoke well to me quite recently about this. I would like our Supreme Soviet to get closer to world models in this respect, by devoting main attention precisely to these functions.

Of course, it is under just such conditions that talk of military people who will supposedly put an end to the fruitless talking shop and ensure stability for the country might strike some people as attractive. But the military will not feed anyone, provide anyone with footwear, or, in short, do anything that we and our children need.

Lord have mercy, I do not blame the military for this: Those who are urging a strong-arm solution to the problems facing the country deserve to be censured.

In an amazingly frank and, I would say, very personal interview which the president has just granted to the new journalists' newspaper GOLOS, Mikhail Sergeyevich pointed out that "in all the main areas of perestroyka we have essentially occupied the last trench." Military terminology, in this case is, in my view, a perfectly justified image. At any rate, one thing is clear: There is no going back (from where we are now being dragged so insistently), and it will not be possible to sit it out.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin Agree on Budget Issues

LD0801163791 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozmin]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Chairman of the Russian parliament Boris Yeltsin today reached "agreement on contentious issues" in the budgets of the USSR and the largest Soviet republic.

First vice-chairman of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, told TASS that Yeltsin "upheld" the budget of the Russian Federation at today's meeting with Gorbachev and "fulfilled the will of the republican Supreme Soviet".

Khasbulatov recalled that Russian MPs recently endorsed the republican budget of 152 billion roubles, of which 23.4 billion was given to the Union budget. The USSR leadership considered this sum as insufficient for the Union budget.

'Rapprochement' Reached

LD0801194391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] President Gorbachev today met Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Chairman Yeltsin. Ignatenko, the head of the president's press service, reported this at a briefing. A number of issues in the 1991 agreement on stabilizing the social and economic situation in the country were resolved by a rapprochement on both sides. Agreement on the future Union budget was also prepared. The head of the press service felt that the signing of such a document opens up discussion of the budget program at a the USSR Supreme Soviet session.

It was reported that on Saturday, 12 January, a Federation Council session will supply the document with legal power. Gorbachev's speech on candidacies for the post of the head of the Cabinet of Ministers is planned for this session. The Council will also return yet again to the draft Union treaty.

Parliament Presidium Examines Referendum Issue

LD0801212791 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—A meeting of the Soviet parliament Presidium chaired by Anatoliy Lukyanov was held in the Kremlin today to examine some important issues.

The meeting discussed implementing decisions made by the Fourth USSR Congress of People's Deputies (full parliament) and the continuation of the fourth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet (standing parliament).

In compliance with an instruction given by the Fourth USSR Congress of People's Deputies, the meeting discussed proposals on the organisation of and measures to hold a countrywide referendum on the preservation of the Soviet Union.

In compliance with an instruction given by the standing Soviet Parliament, the presidium set up a public relations commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The meeting approved the commission's regulations.

Vice Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities Boris Oleinik was approved commission chairman.

The meeting examined some other issues.

Government Cancels Acts Commemorating Voroshilov

LD0801140691 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 8 Jan 91

["Voroshilov Disgraced in Soviet Rethink"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—The Soviet Government has canceled all legal acts immortalising the memory of Marshal of the Soviet Union Klim Voroshilov.

In accordance with the acts, Voroshilov's name was given to the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff Academy, a large anti-submarine warship and a Defence Ministry sanatorium in Sochi, the PRAVITELSTVENNY VESTNIK (Government Herald) weekly reports.

Recently, Voroshilov's activities have been sharply criticised, particularly his participation in Stalin's repressions against Soviet military commanders.

Republic Reactions to Draft Moves Viewed

PM0901115491 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 91 p 1

[Feature under the rubric "Draft-91?", comprising correspondent reports from Riga, Lvov, Vilnius, Kishinev, and Yerevan, unattributed "By the Way" reports, and unattributed report on remarks by presidential press spokesman V. Ignatenko: "Paratroopers on a Raid"]

[Text] Lieutenant General V. Polevik, chief of the Airborne Troops Political Directorate, was just back from a mission, and said that he is not yet ready to comment on the paratroopers' role in the Baltic region.

To mark Airborne Troops Day, Vladimir Arkhipovich had told the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about the paratroopers' tasks in the country's life:

"Our servicemen's combat training and the training of staffs, units, and subunits is organized in such a way that exercises are taking place more or less all the time, so to speak. The movements and landings by units have the aim of preparing the troops for operations in various climatic and geographical conditions. And we try to take into account the Afghanistan experience..."

Riga
By K. Markaryan

Colonel Gen. F. Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic Military District, has informed Latvian Prime Minister I. Godmanis and republic Internal Affairs Minister A. Baznis that an additional contingent of paratroopers is soon to be brought into Latvia's territory.

The colonel general explained that these operations are being undertaken in order to support the USSR Armed Forces draft. The district commander had a meeting with A. Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet.

"We agreed," he said, "that no forced mobilization measures will be carried out in our republic prior to 13 January."

The Latvian Supreme Soviet yesterday adopted a statement in which the USSR Defense Ministry's action is described as an act of gross flouting of the republic's state independence and an act of direct aggression. It is stressed that such actions were not discussed at the USSR Supreme Soviet or sanctioned by it or by any other organ of power.

By the Way

Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri:

"Sending troops into the Baltic republics is a very ill-considered step. Instead of resolving our common problems at the peaceful negotiating table, the USSR authorities are trying to resolve them by the sword, as if peoples and states were a Gordian knot to be cut.

"I believe that if army methods are used to resolve problems, the subsequent development of events could lead to the establishment of the totalitarian forms whose approach Eduard Shevardnadze warned of."

Lvov
By S. Romanyuk

It is Christmas in Lvov. The officials' offices are closed and the telephones are silent. The military do not, of course, observe holidays. Col. Aleksandr Kizim, chief of the oblast military commissariat political section, shrugged:

"I have no information about the sending in of additional troops to organize the draft."

But what about the draft? By the end of the year the plan for new recruits was 44 percent fulfilled. Over 1,000 young men have failed to present themselves at the draft centers. More than 600 of them are on the wanted list. The draft began much later in the Lvov area than in the other oblasts of the Ukraine, and only after the oblast soviet had received guarantees from the Defense Ministry that anyone who wants to will be able to serve in the republic's territory. Now the executive organs are making every effort to make up for lost time. Perhaps it is better that way—without the help of the paratroopers?

Vilnius
By V. Zarovskiy

At 0530 Tuesday the correspondent's office received a telephone call reporting that the promised division had arrived in Vilnius.

I went to Vilnyusskiy Rayon Military Commissariat. No repentant conscripts and no men in flak jacket. An officer with the rank of major, who is directly concerned with the draft, had himself learned of the troop movements from a Lithuanian television report.

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Presidium, for its part, explained: "We appeal to the endangered young conscripts to avoid USSR servicemen, who may use a disguise or resort to other perfidious methods. We suggest that they avoid sleeping at their usual, widely known addresses and using their Lithuanian Republic citizen's identity cards, and that those who are unlawfully detained and their parents should remember that the Lithuanian Republic law on service in defense of the republic allows them to demand the officially recognized status of prisoners of war..."

By the Way

The situation regarding the drafting of citizens for active military service is causing particular concern. As of 1 January 1991, according to Defense Ministry figures, the fulfillment of the fall draft plan was as follows: in Armenia—28.1 percent; in Georgia—10.0 percent; in Moldova—58.9 percent; in Latvia—25.3 percent; in Lithuania—12.5 percent; in Estonia—24.5 percent. The draft plan has also not been fulfilled in certain oblasts of

the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. In the country as a whole the draft plan is 78.8 percent fulfilled.

Kishinev
By A. Khantsevich

"We hope we will get by without drastic measures like those in the Baltics," V.I. Nazarov, Moldova SSR chief military commissar, said. "The draft plan in Moldova is 60 percent fulfilled, and out of 13,700 conscripts, 8,200 have expressed the desire to serve in the Soviet Army. I will again appeal to the president and the Council of Ministers of the republic, and if we cannot reach mutual understanding, it will be necessary to resort to more effective measures to ensure compliance with the 'Law on Universal Military Service.' But I do not think there is any need to bring an additional contingent of troops into Moldova."

Yerevan
By V. Aloyan

From early morning the telephones in institutions in the Republic of Armenia were buzzing with calls from Western correspondents asking about the reaction to the defense minister's order.

Shevarsh Kocharyan, deputy chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet Commission for External Relations, told me that the Supreme Soviet had not yet received the defense minister's order.

Only Maj. Gen. A. Arutyunyan, the republic military commissar, whom I managed to contact, had read it.

"The Armenian parliament has already adopted a decision—the republic's conscripts will serve only on the republic's territory."

[Unattributed report] The decision to send paratroopers to seven Union republics, V. Ignatenko, assistant to the USSR president and leader of the president's press service, stated at a Foreign Ministry briefing yesterday, was adopted by the military on the basis of the presidential decree of 1 December last year.

There are 9,000 draft dodgers in Lithuania, and according to a USSR Defense Ministry statement, there are 5,000 in the Moscow Military District. Why have the paratroopers not been deployed in the capital? Do not think, V. Ignatenko said, that deserters have an easy time in some places; but the specific nature of the situation in the Baltic region is obvious.

On the subject of the much-publicized statement by the U.S. President's aide M. Fitzwater on the postponement of the summit meeting, V. Ignatenko suggested that the reason could be a certain lag in relation to the timetable for holding talks on conventional arms in Europe. But he hopes that the military and the diplomats will make up the lag and the documents will be ready for the meeting between M. Gorbachev and G. Bush as originally scheduled. At all events, Moscow is preparing seriously for the meeting and has given no reason to postpone it.

Many people are inclined to view the sending in of troops as the start of a harsh new round of pressure from the center on the republics.

People in military uniform, V. Ignatenko observed, are always a symbol of strength, a symbol of power. Of course it would be better if the draft had passed off, as always, with dancing, flowers, and folk music. But if that does not happen, then strong men with specific tasks go into action.

Director Lyubimov Views Latest Ban on 'Vzglyad'

PM0901093591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 91 Union Edition p 8

[Interview with A. Lyubimov, director of the "Vzglyad" television program, by S. Dvigantsev under the "TV and Us" rubric, place and date not given—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction: "The Fate of 'Vzglyad': Will We See it or Not?"]

[Text] The "Vzglyad" program was not broadcast again on 4 January. Once more "for political reasons," as the announcer said. IZVESTIYA has received telegrams from viewers.

Here is one of them: "We are incensed at the cancellation of the 'Vzglyad' program by the leadership of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting [Gosteleradio]. Please help to get the program back on. [Signed] The Rykovs and the Ivanovs, Apatity City, Murmansk Oblast."

Aleksandr Lyubimov, director of "Vzglyad," gives the following comment on what is happening:

"What happened was that a specific topic was banned again. The film 'The Team,' about Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze, which we planned to show on 4 January was canceled by the Central Television leadership. We produced a new 'version' of the program. On 2 January Grigoriy Shevelev, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosteleradio, approved this 'version.' But the next day, 3 January, he went back on his own decision..."

[Dvigantsev] What was in the new broadcast?

[Lyubimov] We did not change the theme—a commentary on what happened at the Congress of People's Deputies. We changed the creative format of the program somewhat.

[Dvigantsev] Perhaps that was why the program was not broadcast?

[Lyubimov] The leadership does not "produce" "Vzglyad," it lets us do that ourselves. But as for political assessments... Now we are consulting with lawyers because we want to know the legal view of the situation.

[Dvigantsev] What are the prospects: Will we see your program again?

[Lyubimov] We want that just as much as the viewers. And we are ready to go on air. We are producing a new show on a different subject. In short, we are seeking a compromise. But you get the impression that the leadership does not want to make any concessions. I hope that on Friday 11 January the "Vzglyad" presenters will meet the viewers not just in the newspapers but also on air on Central Television.

[end of Lyubimov comment]

We rang the Gosteleradio leadership for their view of a situation which worries millions of people. Unfortunately Grigoriy Shevelev, the committee's deputy chairman, who is in charge of sociopolitical broadcasts, declined to comment. All that he would say was that he is "unclear at the moment as to whether the 'Vzglyad' program will appear again."

Newspapers Face 'Severe' Newsprint Shortage

LD0801223791 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—The leading national newspapers of the Soviet Union are facing severe shortages of newsprint, journalists were told during a meeting with the leaders of concerned ministries and departments at the Soviet Communist Party press centre here today.

The Soviet Government has been unable to keep newsprint prices stable, and periodicals which raked in profits in millions a short time ago will probably have to close down in two or three months.

Trustful publishers offered subscriptions based on the newsprint prices guaranteed by the government, but the managers of paper- making enterprises announced price-hikes that left most people gasping for air.

First Deputy Minister of the USSR Timber Industry Igor Sankin told journalists that the price hikes resulted first of all from the Soviet Parliament resolution on urgent measures to normalize the ecological situation in the country. Wood cutting dropped sharply following the resolution. In addition, local authorities in some regions and territories arbitrarily banned sales of raw materials and reduced woodcutting to the detriment of state interests.

Outdated equipment at paper-making mills is yet another reason for the reduction of newsprint making, Sankin said. Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov promised considerable currency reserves to renew and repair this equipment and buy chemicals, but this promise has not been kept.

Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for the Press Aleksandr Gorkovliuk told journalists that his committee forbade printing unregistered publications in any of the country's printshops. But this is hardly likely to considerably improve the situation of the newsprint market. About 800 new magazines and newspapers have been registered in the country lately. Most of them, Gorkovliuk said, are willing to pay extra for newsprint.

Head of the PRAVDA publishers V. Leontiev said that purchases of newsprint at 1,300 roubles a tonne will rob the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA youth daily of 21 million roubles and the PRAVDA daily of nearly 17 million roubles a year.

In order to survive, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA will have to raise the price of each issue to 25 kopecks. This will affect millions of people who paid earlier prices for their subscriptions.

There is no mechanism to protect periodicals against bankruptcy, journalists were told.

PRAVDA Publisher Warns of Possible Bankruptcy

LD0801185191

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1441 GMT on 8 January broadcasts at 5-minute report by Yuriy Korotkov on a meeting today with journalists in the CPSU Central Committee's press center.

The journalists were told of the catastrophic situation surrounding newsprint by the heads of the Ministry of Timber Industry, Gosplan, Goskompechat, and the PRAVDA publishing house.

As of January this year there were 1,550 union-wide newspapers and magazine registered—796 of them new. However, the paper industry can only supply 66-70 percent of the publishing industry's requirements for newsprint. Last year a tonne of newsprint cost R300-320, but this year that figure is five times higher on average. This, coupled with the fact that the Ministry of Communications has increased its delivery charges, means that people cannot get all of the publications they want.

Vyacheslav Petrovich Leontyev, director of the CPSU Central Committee's PRAVDA publishing house, is interviewed. He says: "Today's sharp increase in the price of paper means we are faced with the danger that we could quite realistically go bankrupt sometime after June or July. And not only our publishing house, but other similar ones."

This year the newspaper PRAVDA will lose R16 million for the publishing house. Leontyev confirms this: "That is only the newspaper PRAVDA. Our total losses will exceed R100 million. He warns that as from June or July his publishing house will simply have to cease publishing certain titles.

"The only way out of the situation that I can see is for the state and the USSR Council of Ministers to set firm and accessible prices for paper. I would say that these prices—for newsprint, for example—should not exceed R800."

Leontyev concludes by complaining that the paper industry and the Ministry of Communications should not have increased their prices after subscriptions had been taken out, and maintains that the prices of publications cannot be raised ad infinitum.

Correspondent Wins Case Against Army Paper

PM0901092091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report, plus apology reprinted from ZASHCHITNIK RODINY: "Court Defended PRAVDA Correspondent's Honor"]

[Text] In PRAVDA on 5 June 1990 a rejoinder entitled "Strike against Target 'Bazaar'" was published, reporting the complete destruction of a civilian target in a settlement in Odessa Oblast for the reason that, as it transpired later, traders' stalls were erected without the permission of several of the military district's services.

Without going deeply into the substance of this affair, the department newspaper ZASHCHITNIK RODINY literally the following day devoted two columns to it, entitled "Five Lessons in Truth to PRAVDA Correspondent—Open Letter to V.M. Vasilets, Author of Piece on Bazaar," which, having drawn attention to individual inaccuracies, tried to throw the baby out with the bath water.

Our colleague elucidated his position to the publication, eliciting renewed anger from deputy editor Colonel V. Svirko. There is a four page long attack on Vasilets under his name, entitled "10 Questions to PRAVDA Correspondent." And, what do you know, the bazaar, which is so important to the military camp with its 5,000-strong population, is forgotten! Our own correspondent had no alternative but to bring an action through the people's court against the defenders of military honor. ZASHCHITNIK RODINY itself informed its subscribers of the results of the examination of the case the other day. We reprint this report here, as PRAVDA is not indifferent to the issue of conflicts in which several of its hotheaded employees have been embroiled.

Apologies To Our Colleague

On 29 June 1990 the newspaper ZASHCHITNIK RODINY published an article by our correspondent V. Svirko entitled "10 Questions to PRAVDA Correspondent." The piece was a little tendentious in nature, and contained a distortion of individual facts, and at times unjustified attacks on our colleague from the central newspaper. In particular V. Vasilets is portrayed basically as an ignorant journalist, a specialist in a very narrow field; it is alleged that he lives like a lord, that he uses sea water in his home which he has specially delivered, that his wife receives a salary for cleaning the correspondent's office, etc., etc. All this dimimishes the PRAVDA correspondent's human dignity and honor and casts doubt on his decency, modesty, and professional competence. Comrade Vasilets brought a case at the Primorskiy Rayon people's court to bring his libelers to account.

At the court session the author of the piece "10 Questions to PRAVDA Correspondent" and P. Aksenov, ZASHCHITNIK RODINY editorial office representative, admitted Comrade Vasilets' grievances and made an apology to him, a conciliation agreement was formulated, and ratified by the court.

The editorial office and author make their apologies to the newspaper PRAVDA's correspondent Comrade V.M. Vasilets.

Gorbachev Urged To Freeze Paper Prices

91UN0634A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 90 p 1

[Letters to USSR President M.S. Gorbachev by editors in chief of Soviet newspapers: "Will the Newspapers Be Published in the New Year?"]

[Text]

The Letter of Five

To the USSR President

Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich!

There are several days left until the new year begins. We do not know whether the New Year address by the USSR president will reach the citizens of the country, our readers: The Ministry of Communications decided not to deliver newspapers on holidays. In keeping with decisions made previously, our newspapers will be published five times a week instead of six. The newspapers that the people have gotten used to regarding as dailies over many years and decades cannot be called daily newspapers anymore. This is happening at a time when our life is so politicized that it is fitting to produce extra issues, as in the years of the revolution or the war. We are convinced that reducing the frequency of publication of our newspapers will substantially reduce the information potential of party, Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Youth Communist League], and trade union organizations with regard to millions of readers during this complex and contradictory time.

The decision to reduce the frequency of publication of the newspapers by one day per week was made before the beginning of the subscription campaign based on the apprehension that there would not be enough newsprint. However, the real situation (associated primarily with an increase of subscription rates of publications) is such that the combined print runs of the press declined by at least one-third. There is newsprint. There is spare printing capacity. Telecommunications workers will deliver PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA six times per week. Our readers drive trains, operate machine-tool equipment, build houses, and stand guard every day. We think

that they will not understand why steel has to be produced every day and buses have to be on their routes on a regular basis, but the newspapers should be printed on this "preferential" schedule.

Under the existing circumstances, we must return to the decree of the USSR president on the need to preserve contracts already signed for 1991. The most important contract a newspaper has is its obligation to the readers. We believe that the decree of the USSR president should be complied with without reservations, as it relates to newspapers and the defense of the legitimate rights of our readers.

We seek your support.

[Signed] V. Chikin, editor in chief of the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA

A. Yurkov, editor in chief of the newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA

A. Kharlamov, editor in chief of the newspaper SELSKAYA ZHIZN

A. Potapov, editor in chief of the newspaper TRUD

V. Fronin, editor in chief of the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA

P.S. As has become known, the first issue of the newspapers in the new year will still reach the readers on 1 January. However, concern with the future of the press does not abate. Hence

One More Letter of Five

To the USSR President

Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich!

We are forced to approach you with an issue that depends not only on the future of the mass media, but also, as it appears to us, the future of glasnost as a whole. At issue is newsprint. In the course of the last subscription campaign, an unprecedented situation developed whereby the government renounced its guarantees to provide newsprint and printing equipment to publishing houses.

The subscription campaign was held in an environment of dictate by the monopoly producers of paper: Prices increased from 260 to 800 rubles [R] per ton. We were assured that these prices would remain unchanged in 1991. IZVESTIYA, PRAVDA, TRUD, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, and other periodicals were forced to increase subscription rates by factors of two to 2.5 to survive, given such monopoly pressure; a drop in print runs resulted.

An abrupt drop in the profits of publishing houses and a reduction of enterprise funds allocated for the development of production and the resolution of social and housing-services issues was yet another consequence. However, this was not yet all. Taking advantage of the fact that the government failed to include newsprint in the list of goods for which fixed prices are set, some pulp and paper combines are trying to increase these prices again. Just recently, the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine sent out to publishing houses a coordination protocol for contract prices bringing rates to R1,500 per ton of newsprint. Following this, other main suppliers also made their ultimatums. If their dictate is to be accepted, many popular publications may be closed down right now. They are becoming unprofitable, and their losses are reaching tremendous amounts—several dozen million rubles.

According to the USSR State Planning Committee, publications will automatically operate at a loss even at the current, substantially increased subscription rates, given newsprint prices in excess of R800.

Leading periodicals are doomed to withdraw from the market unless a mechanism of state regulation is activated. The editorial offices of magazines and their publishers (or founders) do not have an opportunity to ensure the self-financing of their publications in the immediate future, even if they make collecting and publishing advertisements one of the main avenues of their activity. Besides, the very expansion of the publication of advertisements will practically bring about a doubling of the volume of magazines and newspapers, which is impossible given a shortage of newsprint on the one hand, and the astronomical growth of prices for it on the other hand.

We ask that you instruct the proper government organs to put an end to the dictate of monopolistic organizations against whom publishing houses are virtually defenseless. The setting of a fixed price for newsprint could become the first step in this direction.

[Signed] I. Frolov, editor in chief of PRAVDA

N. Yefimov, editor in chief of IZVESTIYA

F. Burlatskiy, editor in chief of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA

A. Potapov, editor in chief of TRUD

V. Fronin, editor in chief of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA

Mail Delays Part of 'Assault on Glasnost'

PM0801112791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 3

[Letter from A. Khromushin, followed by IZVESTIYA commentary, carried under general heading "Yesterday's Paper Is Not Needed the Day After Tomorrow"]

[Text]

Letter to IZVESTIYA

Throughout the civilized world it is the publisher himself who worries about the distribution of his product, seeing

that it reaches the consumer or the mailman's sack. It is only in our country, thanks to the many years of diktat by social organizations, that the publisher's obligations have been laid at the door of the post office. Dispatch and delivery prices have remained fixed since 1939. Publishing houses have underpaid communications workers for distributing newspapers and magazines by almost 600 million rubles [R] a year, and with the expected introduction of new wholesale prices for gasoline, electricity, air and rail transportation, and a necessary level of accumulations, this figure will grow to R1.3 billion. This at any rate was what Ye. Manyakin, USSR deputy communications minister, announced to the public.

Today the expected cost of press distribution and delivery is growing. For instance, in the Ukraine alone air transportation (international and internal) will amount to more than R40 million, while rail transportation will quadruple to approximately R250 million. Everyone will make a loss, except for the apparatus. The ministry is defending its own interests fairly successfully. An example of this is the substantial pay increases for leading staff—increases bringing no improvement in organization or working conditions. There has been no noticeable improvement in providing communications services to the population either.

The profits which our sector made mainly went to the development of electronic communications. Where are the guarantees that this urge to cover up the losses made by some using the incomes of others—without taking responsibility in this process—will not arise again? At all levels, from the Ministry of Communications to the regular enterprise, the leadership is concerned only with how to plug in to the new economic relations without changing anything in the structure or organization of production or in working or payment conditions. Their attitude is: The state will pay for everything out of your pocket and mine.

I am entirely sure that the increased prices for paper, typographical work, and communications services will not ease their workload or result in a substantial rise in pay, and will not lead to the modernization of production. All the resources, as usual, sink into the bottomless budget.

I am convinced that, if the USSR Ministry of Communications had worthy competitors, it would not dare to pursue such a blatant departmental policy. Perhaps it makes sense to introduce the policy of destatization here too? Flexible structures are needed, to help the press reach every reader quickly and the mail to reach its addressees. Otherwise the departmental monopoly will finally undermine the already neglected mail service.

[Signed] A. Khromushin, Kiev

IZVESTIYA Commentary

The number of complaints about the poor work of the mail services in the IZVESTIYA editors' mailbag has sharply increased. Whereas at the end of last year these were, as is usually said, isolated alarm bells, nowadays the number of letters and calls of this kind is growing at a catastrophic rate.

The situation described by Muscovite V. Kuznetsov is typical. A long-standing IZVESTIYA subscriber, from November 1990 he began receiving our newspaper late. Then IZVESTIYA ceased to appear in his mailbox altogether. Post Office No. 321 advised him: "Fetch the mail yourself!"

"But the post office is a long way from my house," V. Kuznetsov objected. "And anyway, it is only open until 2000 hours, and I work late."

A conversation with staff at interrayon General Post Office No.7 was to no avail either. Here they cited the shortage of evening mailmen and the fact that taxis have refused to carry mail as of 1991. True, it is now possible to conclude contracts with private drivers, but this form of contract has not yet been introduced. As a result, many newspapers reach subscribers at best on the morning of the following day, or even days later.

Thousands of Muscovites have found themselves in the same situation as V. Kuznetsov. Especially those living in rayons serviced by post offices 311, 414, 420, 485, and others. As of 3 January, many of these subscribers had not yet received IZVESTIYA for 1 and 2 January.

"We have been talking with USSR Ministry of Communications personnel responsible for delivering the mail, and to employees of the Moscow General Post Office," A. Grishkov, chief of the press distribution and dispatch department of IZVESTIYA publishing house, explains. "They are trying to prove that it is impossible to deliver our newspaper in the evening. But mixed up with the objective difficulties is the desire also to lighten their workload by 'withdrawing' the Moscow evening edition of IZVESTIYA. The fine sanctions provided for by the new contract will evidently have to be used. But, sadly, this is a poor consolation for subscribers."

We will remind our readers: Nowadays communications workers receive up to 25 percent of the current face value of each issue of IZVESTIYA—significantly more than last year. Moreover, the paper now comes out not seven, but six times a week, which alleviates the problems of delivering it. In short, the editors and the publishers have moved to meet the mail workers' demands, while at the same time maintaining the paper's former output, by publishing three eight-page and three six-page issues per week. However, the delivery situation in Moscow has by no means improved.

And how do things stand in other regions?

This is what our own correspondent O. Stefashin reported from Karaganda:

"Karaganda's subscribers received no newspapers 1 January—the communications workers did not work on that day. The papers were delivered 3 January according to schedule."

A. Pushkar, from Tula: "Many subscribers, including me, did not receive IZVESTIYA or other newspapers 1 January." There are still no papers 4 January.

N. Lashkevich reports from Vilnius: "Subscribers are continuing to receive IZVESTIYA for the day before yesterday. For example, as of 1200 local time yesterday, one paper with last year's date had still not arrived. IZVESTIYA is delivered together with the republic newspapers, so that it would be unfair to suggest any kind of discrimination on the part of the Lithuanian post office."

Things are no better in Ashkhabad, judging by V. Kuleshov's report. Although IZVESTIYA was published on time in the first days of January in the Turkmen capital, the general post office delivery service was working irregularly. Communications workers had a day off 1 January—the newspaper was not delivered to readers; on 2 January IZVESTIYA was brought only after lunch, 3 January—again, only after lunch. Indeed, IZVESTIYAs for 1, 2, and 3 January were not delivered to the IZVESTIYA correspondents' center (it is served by the general post office). V. Kushelov phoned the republic Ministry of Communications and found no one at home.

Reports from Kiev, Leningrad, Yaroslavl, Yerevan, and other large centers in the country are also sounding notes of alarm: Delivery of IZVESTIYA to subscribers is late—in some places days late, in some a little less, in others a little more.

Things are no better as regards retail sales. For instance, according to the report of our Voronezh correspondent V. Mirolevich, in the first days of January it was impossible to obtain current editions of the central publications at newspaper kiosks in that city. The oblast Main Administration for the Distribution of Printed Matter [Soyuzpechat], citing the Ministry of Communications' instructions, ordered for retail a print-run smaller by a quarter than last year. They feared a fall in demand for the dearer newspaper. But kiosk operators claim that they sold out of IZVESTIYA in just a few minutes. The paper was not delivered to subscribers the first two days of January either.

Much depends on the conscientiousness of the local communications workers and their business contacts with printing trades workers and transport workers. Proof of this are the reports of our own correspondents from Irkutsk, Smolensk, Tyumen, Omsk, Tomsk, and other cities. "The paper is being delivered on time." And even in Nizhniy Novgorod, where an accident occurred at the printing press 1 January, and in Rostov-na-Donu, to where the central papers are for the time being brought from Donetsk because of a fire in the summer in the printing press, communications workers managed to quickly get into a normal timetable in the first days of the new year.

Sometimes postal workers lay the blame for holdups on the editors of IZVESTIYA and other newspapers, on printing trades workers, and on paper shortages, etc. Even though in recent months IZVESTIYA has, as a rule, come out on time, and the situation as regards paper is far less strained than last fall.

What is happening? The publishing house and editorial board of IZVESTIYA and other newspapers have doubled Soyuzpechat's payment for delivery. It is for this reason in particular that subscribers have had to lay out much larger subscription sums than in previous years. And the result—massive disruptions in the delivery schedule, and letters and telegrams threatening to cancel subscriptions "although we love your newspaper." Perhaps it is worth following the suggestion of Muscovite N. Keller, who also received January's newspapers late: "The editors should sue the USSR Ministry of Communications for damage incurred through the late delivery of daily news."

This is a cause for alarm. It would appear that yet again we are running up against not simply confusion and a reluctance to observe contract obligations. Many readers see in the delivery situation yet one more step in an assault on glasnost.

General Prosecutor on 'War of Laws'

PM0701160491 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 First Edition p 6

[Interview with USSR General Prosecutor N. Trubin by TASS correspondent O. Kulikov; date and place not given: "'Legal Anarchy Is Harmful For Everyone'—Interview With the USSR General Prosecutor"]

[Text] The "war of laws" will end and once again it will become the norm for our country to uphold the law as it claims its place among civilized rule-of-law states—such is USSR General Prosecutor N. Trubin's forecast for the immediate future. He gave his first interview since taking office to a TASS correspondent.

[Kulikov] Nikolay Semenovich, was the road to this prosecutor's Olympus a long one?

[Trubin] Yes, very long—37 years. I climbed every rung of the official ladder without skipping a single stage. I began my career as assistant prosecutor at the Pecherskiy correctional labor camp. I moved from region to region, city to city, post to post... More recently, I held the post of prosecutor for the Russian Federation.

[Kulikov] The measures implemented by the prosecutor with other law enforcement organs have not improved conditions in the country. Moreover, in some cases the rule of law has failed to triumph. What do you consider

to be the reasons for the decline in the authority of one of the most important links in the law enforcement "chain?"

[Trubin] Above all, the "war of laws" is to blame. It paralyzes the organs of executive power and renders the prosecutor's supervision ineffective. Legal nihilism on the part of republican legislators has spread to local soviets. They have misinterpreted the sovereignty of individual territories and have begun to take decisions contradicting not only the USSR Constitution and laws but also the constitutions and laws of the republics themselves. Legislation has not given the prosecutors the right to contest local soviet decisions. Our amendment to the Constitution, adopted by the country's Congress of People's Deputies, has removed this shortcoming. Now we are striving to obtain the right to suspend illegal decisions as well, and to appeal to the court in the event of protests being dismissed. Besides that, when the legislators demanded that the prosecutor reinforce law and order they did not provide for any kind of liability for failing to execute his orders. We have presented a package of proposals on reinforcing the legal basis of our activity to the country's Supreme Soviet.

Constant interference in the work of the prosecutor's office is highly damaging too. Many people's deputies at all levels, who shout about the supposed prevalence of Communist Party dictates in our work and demand swift depoliticization, are trying to impose their own subjective opinion and influence the character of decisions we take. But "rally law" in general blocks the activity of the law enforcement organs.

[Kulikov] In short, you are not satisfied with the role played by the prosecutor's office in our country's law enforcement system today?

[Trubin] No, I am not satisfied. In the coming months it will be necessary to relieve the prosecutor's office of all functions irrelevant to it. For example, the so-called general supervision merely does the work of organs of management and control. But you know, the prosecutor's control is not a systematic review. It should only be exercised when there are indications that laws have been violated.

While supervising investigations, the prosecutor's office has become too involved in the investigation of crime. In effect, it is supervising itself. If it sanctions arrest of an accused and is then "ticked off" when a verdict of not guilty is passed in the case, the prosecutor's office cannot be an objective "supervisor." Therefore, I consider it necessary to leave the investigation of general criminal activity to the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] with the prosecutor's office retaining the right to supervise the inquiry and intervene in any given case.

Furthermore, the maintenance of the state prosecution in the court has turned into supervision of the trial, and this is unacceptable in a rule-of-law state. The prosecutor should examine a defined category of cases and have the right to request a revision of unlawful decisions on such cases.

A great deal needs to be changed in the work for the prosecutor's office to get back on its feet. Priority will be given to defending citizens' life and health, honor and dignity, and rights and freedoms against criminal infringement, and against tyranny by officials of any rank.

(Kulakov) The confrontation between the republics and the center has led to the breakup of the prosecutor's system in the country. Do you have hopes that it can be reanimated?

[Trubin] The concept for renewing the Union is based on the recognition of the republics' sovereignty and the need for demarcation of powers between the Union and the republics. Meanwhile, until recently the USSR Constitution maintained the USSR Prosecutor's Office in positions of strict centralization. This resulted in a lack of control over altering the status of the republic prosecutors, which had begun spontaneously in the republics. The Union Prosecutor's Office ended up lagging behind events and taking erroneous organizational decisions.

The Congress adopted our ammendment to the Constitution recognizing the right of the republics' highest organs of state power to appoint the republic prosecutors and demand from them an account of their work. In doing this, the Union general prosecutor must retain the right to participate in the selection of personnel and also to manage an integrated all-Union prosecutor's system as regards monitoring compliance with USSR laws passed in line with powers delegated to the Union. It is not beneficial for the republic prosecutors to secede from the all-Union system. Without the general prosecutor they will not be able to defend their sovereignty from the diktat of the central ministries and departments, or to defend their interests in interrepublican relations and the rights of their own citizens on the territory of other republics. Organized crime does not recognize borders either. Thus, in the near future, we will take measures to unify the prosecutor's system. Joint efforts will be made to strengthen legal conditions in the country.

Political Observer Pozner Interviews Lukyanov

LD0501223991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] TASS reported today that the fourth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet would resume with a joint meeting of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities on 8 January, at 1000 in the hall where the houses of the USSR Supreme Soviet meet. That will be in the Kremlin.

It is hardly much of a revelation to say that ultimately both the outcome of the debates and the quality of the

decisions made depend on the position of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who chairs all the key meetings. So, what are the political leanings of Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov? What do a tube of toothpaste and the current position of a political centrist have in common? Can the economy be regulated and self-regulating at the same time?

The answers to these questions are in an interview given by Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov to political observer Vladimir Vladimirovich Pozner, to be broadcast on 6 January on the First Program of Central Television at 1730 [1430 GMT].

And now, an excerpt of his conversation:

[Begin recording] [Pozner] Interviewed for the newspaper RABOCHIY KRAY last 4 September, you said the following: "In the past eighteen months, I have somehow got used to the fact that totally contradictory things are written about me. Some call me an arch-rightwinger, ready to fight any opposition to the death. Others swear that I am a closet leftist." Well, who is Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov? Right, left, or center?

[Lukyanov] If you go by what my old friend Academician Shatalin has said about me, and he knows me well, he calls me a left light-middleweight there.

[Pozner] Well, you see, he is a footbal fan, splendid.

[Lukyanov] A great football fan. He's our economic Maradonna. Yes! So, he says I am a left light-middleweight. I believe, and I have frequently had occasion to speak of this with my opponents for the way it works out is that here in the Supreme Soviet various opinions meet, various trends, the representatives of various trends and parties come together, that fate has decreed that we, representatives of the state leadership, have been set on the center ground. That is no accident. [end recording]

CPSU's Dzasokhov Addresses Party Secretaries

LD0701231491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The instruction of secretaries of central committees of communist parties of the union republics, republican committees, kraykoms, and obkoms of the party dealing with issues of ideological work began today at the Academy of Social Sciences of the CPSU Central Committee. Those assembled were addressed by Dzasokhov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He touched on the role of the party committees in stabilizing the economy and overcoming the crisis situation in the country. He spoke about the theory and practice of ideological work by the CPSU during the transition to market relations.

Documentary Film Examines Extremism

LD0501051191

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian at 1847 GMT on 4 January carries a 40-minute documentary film entitled "The Face of Extremism." Before the start of the film the announcer expreses the hope that television viewers will ponder how they can prevent extremism. The first 19 minutes of the film recount foreign examples of extremism: terrorism in Ulster, London, Paris, Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Spain, and elsewhere. The U.S. attacks on Grenada, Panama, and Libya, and the Iraqi attack on Kuwait are also described as extremism. The dire consequences of extremism and the proposition that it never achieves its aims are intoned by the unidentified narrator.

At this point the film changes tack to the domestic situation. To scenes of the Kremlin, the narrator says that "today, we are all becoming politicians. We have felt ourselves to be a free people. Our aim is humane and democratic socialism and civic concord." Gorbachev is shown talking at the Palace of Congresses and shaking hands with Orthodox clergy. "We are establishing normal relations with religions of all confessions. However, this does not suit certain newly proclaimed politicians. For the sake of their abitious objectives, striving for power, they are prepared to get a mass of people onto the streets. Religious strife is consciously aggravated." Video shows a Rukh rally.

"Religious and ethnic extremism are skillfully exploited by forces striving to destroy and replace the state structure of the union and republican level. According to their schemes, the state's economic and political collapse, whose ethnic symbiosis of people has evolved over centuries, should follow." Video shows Central Asian riots, contrasted with earthquakes, floods, volcano, and tomic explosions.

The video then shows fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The narrator deplores Azerbaijani and Armenian extremism. The video shows fragments of military documents in English to which the narrator says: "Before you are British archive documents from the period of the civil war in our country." "The British politicians reshaped the map of Transcaucasia in their own interests. They supplied arms, enflaming strife." Video then shows Caucasian guerillas, wielding AK-47's, dragging a large artillery piece, and firing rockets. "But why are the local authorities idle? Surely not through ignorance? No. The state security and internal affairs bodies have informed the local state and party leaders on more than one occasion about the development of negative processes. "Without radical measures by legislative and executive power, and all public structures, we can hardly count on the removal of the causes of interethnic strife."

The narrator continues: "In the spring nights of somnolent Vilnius the decision on secession from the union is

proclaimed. At one blow, without consultation with their own people, 50 years of history are crossed out. Separatist forces, hiding initially behind perestroyka slogans, are bringing our state to disintegration. Antidemocratic laws and decisions are being made, which encroach on the civil rights of tens and hundreds of thousands of people of non- native ethnicity." The video shows a jubliant Lithuanian government. Those who collaborated with the Nazis in the occupied Baltic are now being rehabilitated.

As the video shows Mujahideen fighting the Soviet Army, the narrator continues: "The nationalist separatists have their inspirers. In its recommendations to the U.S. President, under the heading of Mandate for Leadership, the Endowment Fund [Fond Naslediya], an influential research center adhering to a rightist-conservative position, openly declares that it is time the new administration thought about extending the liberation doctrine to the territory of the actual Soviet empire, and to ask itself how the United States of America can best support the fighters for political freedom in Eastern Europe, and even within the Soviet Union. Genuine liberalization will inevitably cause the collapse of the Soviet empire.

"And further, it likewise behooves the new administration to exploit Islamic fundamentalism in the Central Asian republics—Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and Uzbekistan. Those same mujahideen, who paralyzed the Red Army in Afghanistan, could help to assist Soviet citizens in the Central Asian republics in organizing underground political movements. Foreign observers note that to a great extent the U.S. administration follows the recommendations of the Ednowment Fund in its policy. Through emigre organizations and various funds the special services of Western countries provide propaganda and material aid to separatist movements. It is known, for instance, that the so-called National Endowment for Democracy, financed from the U.S. federal budget, apportions tens of thousands of dollars to nationalist groups of the Baltics and Western Ukraine for the acquisition of duplicating equipment, computers, and the organization of foreign trips."

The video then shows maggots eating rotten vegetables, followed by a video of pro-Moscow demonstrations and Gorbachev in various poses and settings. The narrator presents his conclusion: "Despite all the crises, we remember that our union is a great country, not only because we have immeasurable vistas, extremely rich depths, and mighty weapons. The country's greatness is in its spiritual potential, energy, talent, and the many centuries' culture of all the peoples inhabiting it. As our president stresses, we need the consolidation of all democratic forces, civic concord, and firmness with regard to any extremist phenomena for the success of perestroyka. How quickly the hand runs across the clock face. The country is at a turning point. Time demands that we stop the extrmeist frenzy. Tomorrow could already be too late. Our future is in our hands."

Bakatin on Interior Ministry Experience

91UN0635A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 90 p 4

[Interview with Vadim Bakatin, former Minister of Internal Affairs and member of the Presidential Council, by S. Orlyuk; in the building of the USSR Council of Ministers in the Kremlin; date not given: "Vadim Bakatin: 'I Did Not Want to Go'"]

[Text]*At the entrance to the building of the Council of Ministers in the Kremlin where Vadim Viktorovich now works on the third floor, they tried for a long time to convince me that there was no Bakatin there. He was there. He just moved to an office earmarked for the Presidential Council. Boris Pugo took his chair at the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. To be sure, the decree of the president on the dismissal of V. Bakatin was not confirmed at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet. However, I am compelled to agree with the position of Vadim Viktorovich: The decision has already been made; it is irreversible, and all emotions on this account will only be harmful and will exacerbate an already tense situation.*

It is no secret that there has been considerable interest in Bakatin as a minister and a politician, especially these days. This interest is quite justified, despite the fact that the citizens have not been able to see him all that often, say, on TV screens.

As I prepared for the meeting, I only knew that Bakatin is an interesting interlocutor, although at times harsh and categorical.

[Orlyuk] Vadim Viktorovich, you would agree that the speech by the minister of foreign affairs at the congress left hardly anyone indifferent...

[Bakatin] Of course, I was shaken by Shevardnadze's statement. However, I cannot pass judgment on him. Did he act correctly or not? I do not know all of his motives. Apparently, they are very serious.

In general, I need to think ten times whether it is worthwhile for me to make statements in the central press at this point, though conjectures have already begun to circulate: Yakovlev, Bakatin, Shevardnadze... Who is next, they say? I do not want to deprive the people of the right to such an analysis. However, at this point I would not like to make all tne "pieces" fit with regard to a thesis on a change in the presidential course.

(Footnote: Of course, I was removed from my job. I was transfered to another job. I was a member of the Presidential Council and a minister, and now I am only a member of the Presidential Council, such a council that exists now but will be gone tomorrow)

Mikhail Sergeyevich invited me to work at the MVD two years ago. It was unexpected. I agreed to this job, and frankly speaking, settled in. I came to like this job, despite not being a militiaman. However, such situations developed at times that I told the president: I am

prepared to quit right now. I did not seek this job, I did not write applications, and I do not have a monopoly on this position. Remove me if you see fit, no offense will be taken. So, this time came. The least of two evils had to be opted for, and the president signed the decree, in general leaving me on his team, as he believes...

[Orlyuk] I know that you intended to make a speech at the session of the Supreme Soviet when your dismissal was discussed.

[Bakatin] Yes, I intended to, but since I did not speak, this means that there is no speech. I said what I said. We should not create tension where it should not be created. I called on the deputies to confirm the decision of the president on my dismissal.

One more thing. It is important for me to let everyone know: I did not ask for another job. A resignation request would be tantamount to betrayal given the present operations of the MVD and the militia.

Incidentally

The fifth minister has been appointed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the last 10 years: Shchelokov, Fedorchuk, Vlasov, Bakatin, and Pugo.

[Bakatin] I will tell you frankly: I do not have differences in principle with the president. The president always regarded my personal, special views with understanding; one can argue with the president. He may not accept your thought (for example, the concept of the USSR Communist Party—I have been saying all along that it should exist as a union of communist parties). However, we argue, but this does not interfere with our relationship.

I absolutely disagree with the politicians who refer to the disintegration of the MVD system, confusing the cause and the effect. Given the disorganization that reigns around us, the MVD more or less works. The anticonstitutional activities of power interfere with its operations.

[Orlyuk] After all, this is one of the theses from your letter to A.I. Lukyanov and the people's deputies.

[Bakatin] Yes. The next thesis of mine concerns "the center." The center as such is not bad. A center is objectively necessary under any system, all the more so in a union of sovereign states. The ideology of centrism is faulty.

The forces that have lost in the environment of democracy, and are now trying to regain power in the republics by appealing to the law-enforcement organs and the president, are wasting their energies. There are two ways to regain power: Either secure the confidence of the people and come to power again through democratic institutes, or give up democracy. However, we cannot give up our democracy, no matter how underdeveloped it may be. It only needs to be cured.

Besides, strong power is indeed needed at present, although it will never become strong until differences between parliaments come to an end.

[Orlyuk] Perhaps complaints about the operation of the MVD are caused by the exacerbation of the crime situation, among other things?

[Bakatin] As far as common crime is concerned, it would be surprising if it were not growing; this is an objective process. The crime rate increases always, even under democracy, at a time when reforms begin in a society, when connections and development proportions are disrupted. Why has it been growing, and at even higher rates, by 30 percent, from Germany to Mongolia? You may appoint two or three ministers, and you may change them every day, but this is not going to work.

Just one thing is necessary: a program for reforming and reinforcing the entire criminal justice system. At present, the militia cannot undergo structural changes until it becomes clear what the Union is going to be. The Italians say that it took them 10 years to ensure for the police the position that they now have in their society.

Incidentally

It was exactly with the arrival of Vadim Bakatin that briefings began to be held regularly by the MVD. They finally started providing hot food in solitary confinement and punitive isolation cells. Incidentally, the closing down of ancient corrections facilities, additions to parcels, and preferences for women serving time—and many things envisaged by the concept of humanizing corrections facilities—have been implemented in the last two years.

The minister also was not indifferent to the needs of personnel: Salary increases for the personnel of many subdivisions were introduced on his initiative.

It is no secret that they managed to rebuke him for negotiating with his colleagues from the Baltic area and for a treaty with the Estonia MVD (our newspaper has already discussed the letter to A.I. Lukyanov).

I will venture to say that measures to reorganize the operation of the internal affairs organs implemented and planned by V. Bakatin give us much more hope than appeals for emergency measures or for getting the citizens involved in controlling crime to a man.

[Orlyuk] Vadim Viktorovich, is it true that during your work at the MVD complications developed, as well as an inability to work with, and a lack of understanding in relations with the key personnel of the ministry?

[Bakatin] This is a very complicated system. There are people who have worked in the MVD their entire lives, advanced to the ranks of generals, and become chiefs of main administrations. There are people with a modern understanding of the problems; however, there are also those who are used to just carrying out orders, who ended up in such jobs by chance. There are all sorts.

I almost did not replace the cadres, despite my character being quite harsh. I may have even been rude to a degree. This may have wounded the self-esteem of some comrades.

[Orlyuk] However, did you have to look for some kind of agreement? I am not talking about personal relations; I am talking about professional agreement, about working out a joint tactic.

[Bakatin] I am not a professional. You know what the greatest trouble is? It is that there has always been agreement. It appears to me that this is a habit, and not only in the MVD. Above all, I value people who disagree. Meanwhile, an overwhelming majority always agreed. It is easy to lead professionals. It is beautiful when you have real professionals. A minister cannot know everything better than others.

You know, when I came there, initially I worried and was afraid that I could not cope. Literally one week later, it seemed to me that everything was alright—there were no questions, everything was elementary, simple, and normal, and it appeared to me that I was guessing and understanding everything. I understood later that I was mistaken. In all honesty, I still have not properly learned everything about this huge organization. There is a tremendous tangle of problems, and solving them is still a matter of the future. I assess my work at the MVD quite critically, and believe that I managed to accomplish little.

[Orlyuk] Vadim Viktorovich, how do you imagine your future activities? Could it be that you will return to party work again?

[Bakatin] I do not know. It is up to the president to make a decision. I cannot say that I will take any offer. I may turn it down; it is not ruled out that I will have to go down a completely different road, as they say.

In general, it has so happened that my life has been somehow strange, sort of broken. Initially, I was in construction for 13 years, then I was a party functionary for more than 12 years, and later a minister.

As far as party work is concerned, I will not return to it; this is a closed chapter for me.

Incidentally

The CPSU Central Committee newspaper GLASNOST was the first one to begin an open struggle against Minister V. Bakatin. In three issues in a row, this publication persistently informed its readers that the ministry was disintegrating and failing to accomplish the task set for it, and so on, all the way to charges of showing indulgence toward the criminals...

[Orlyuk] Vadim Viktorovich, I would be very interested in knowing your opinion of the Soyuz group of deputies, all the more so because on the eve of your dismissal it was precisely at their conference that demands were voiced to replace the key MVD personnel, and first of all to remove you as a minister who was failing to perform his duties adequately.

[Bakatin] I cannot assess a group of deputies, whose work I have not studied, only on the basis of their demand for my dismissal. Their present goal, the preservation of the Union, is noble and most significant. However, on occasion the best of endeavors may be imperiled by incorrect methods, because you cannot meet lawlessness with lawlessness. This is a primitive policy. Any violence will lead to more violence. The Union will not be preserved by force. However, the deputies of the Soyuz group are correct on the main point. The rights of all people of all nationalities should be respected and guaranteed regardless of whether their republic secedes from the USSR or stays. In general, proceeding from common sense, what needs to be understood, as someone recently put it, is: We are not going to fly away anywhere; all of us are going to stay here, and it is at the very least stupid to ruin our mutual relations.

There are talented guys in Soyuz. They speak well, they are good politicians, but their activities do not facilitate accord or solve our problems. (Incidentally, I have long been familiar with Soyuz; I spoke to them in May. They treated me very well, and even nominated me for president, though nobody asked them to).

[Orlyuk] After all, all of them are human, all of them continuously experience this feeling of tension and dissatisfaction. Could their programmatic methods lead to actions?

[Bakatin] Who knows? They might. I think that there may be some actions, even in the nature of a provocation. However, on the other hand, we may understand some members of this group because most of them are—I intensely dislike this word—ethnic minorities. We should say frankly that there is nationalism in our country. We have forgotten this word.

Nationalism is when I, being the leader of a national republic, solve the problems of my people at the expense of another people.

Incidentally

According to the data of the latest surveys by the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion, V. Bakatin was named one of the popular politicians in the country.

The election of the USSR president and the appointment of the Presidential Council made only 11.5 percent of the 2,680 citizens surveyed happy.

Out of the 2,636 respondents, 1.2 percent were prepared to nominate V. Bakatin for the post of USSR president (1.8 percent would have voted for E. Shevardnadze, 3.2 percent for A. Sobchak, 9.7 percent for B. Yeltsin, and 14.2 percent would have voted for N. Ryzhkov).

To the question "To what degree do the militia organs deserve to be trusted?" out of 2,812 citizens, 26.3 percent answered "definitely deserve," 36.4 percent answered "do not quite deserve," and 19.6 percent answered "do not at all deserve."

[Orlyuk] Vadim Viktorovich, do you think that the process of politicization of the internal affairs organs is still continuing, despite even the abolition of two administrations? What is your attitude toward this? And toward the position of the CPSU in society? I mean the course of the party leadership...

[Bakatin] First of all, I do not think that any process of politicization is now developing in the MVD system, and that my departure will change something in this sense. I think that it is more logical to judge the situation in the country on the whole: A renaissance, so to speak, has begun, an increase in the authority or, at least, the activity of the CPSU. We can discuss whether it is good or bad.

We continue to swear to the socialist option; we have split the party from inside; we have parted ways on goals, on ideological and national tasks. Over 70 years, our society has gotten used to just one person leading. You cannot wean millions of people from it right away. All you have to do is tell them where to go and how...

Incidentally, on combining the posts of general secretary and president, it is absolutely normal for a party to come to power and for its leader to become the leader of the state.

[Orlyuk] However, this is not the case here, perhaps?

[Bakatin] Ours is a different case, a different pattern. We sort of exist "from a given condition." Of course, in this matter the subjective aspects of behavior of M. Gorbachev himself are a factor. However, at any rate he has proven that he does not hinder the development of all other parties and movements, which, incidentally, he is terribly criticized for.

This is another situation that is paradoxical: Let us look at who berates Gorbachev the most. I am afraid that Communists do, his close comrades-in-arms from the party.

[Orlyuk] Vadim Viktorovich, what is your impression of the congress?

[Bakatin] I sit there at the congress, and everything happening there makes me very uneasy. We discuss the future, what the economy should be, and what the Union should be; all of this is very important. However, we do not at all talk about the present day. What are we? A Union? Or maybe not the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics anymore? Do we have a Constitution? Yes, we do. Is it complied with? No, it is violated by and large, not by you or me as citizens, but by the second-tier legislators, and this is not a state anymore.

[Orlyuk] What is your attitude toward show trials at stadiums and houses of culture and the participation of people in crime control—I mean workers' detachments and individual citizens?..

[Bakatin] The law should never be neglected. It is the law, the law and nothing but the law. There should not be any topics of the day, any ideology or, say, politics, though politics cannot but influence law. A show trial at a stadium is really news to me. There is horrible judicial or legal illiteracy in our country. Not only the citizens, but also the officials do not know laws.

As far as workers' detachments are concerned... I did not and do not see anything bad about this. This is a form that replaced volunteer people's detachments. You, or some working-class guy, should not be entrusted with the investigation of some case or with looking for a killer.

At issue is the elementary patrolling of their territory by citizens. This exists everywhere, throughout the world...

[Orlyuk] Thank you very much for the conversation. (Footnote: It is already gone.)

Economic

Incoming Food Cargoes Slowed at Murmansk

914D0102A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
3 Jan 91 Second Edition p 6

[Article by PRAVDA stringer A. Khramtsov: "A 'Hungry Russia' Is in No Hurry. The Meat Is in the Ships' Holds. Will It Appear on the Store Shelves?"]

[Text] Murmansk—**The operations headquarters of the KGB Administration for Murmansk Oblast currently resembles the dispatching office of a large transportation junction. Information on the hauling of imported and exported freight which is delivered to the Kola peninsula by seagoing vessels, railway trains, and cars is received here on a daily basis.**

Unlike a dispatching office, however, this facility not only tracks the path of foodstuffs and manufactured goods in short supply, but also promptly puts an end to disruptions in the transportation chain and attempted theft.

I read a summary report on the clearing of imported freight at the "Lotta" checkpoint on the Soviet-Finnish border. That day, 19 foreign passenger cars, which were shipped by the Finnish company Norinter to the "White Sea Fisherman" kolkhoz [collective farm] under a barter arrangement brokered by the Kola Regional Association for Foreign Economic Relations, cleared the border-control checkpoint. Another 16 passenger cars were destined for the Kovdorskiy Timber Industry Unit from the Finnish company Saap. The Swedish company Tryfing shipped office equipment for the already mentioned Kola Regional Association by car. Trucks with foodstuffs, clothing, and footwear from the Norwegian town

of Harlstad—a gift to the children's fund of the city of Kirovsk also cleared the checkpoint.

Here is a report of a different kind. In the mining settlement of Revda in Lovozerskiy Rayon, the manager of a grocery store sold outsiders about 50 kilograms of semi-smoked sausage earmarked for the handicapped and war and labor veterans, by forging signatures. Criminal charges were filed. There was one more report: The Far Eastern trawler German Mattern, which delivered from Amsterdam 4,900 tons of pork and mutton purchased in Germany by Prodintorg [All-Union Association for Foodstuffs Exports and Imports] of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, was idle for as long as two days at the Murmansk Commercial Seaport.

Together with employees of the operations headquarters, we went to the pier at which the vessel with imported meat cargo was moored. We boarded the trawler precisely at the moment when a shunting diesel engine was pulling the first and, as it turned out, the only refrigerator section, consisting of five cars, along the wharf's spur line. Longshoremen had already opened the hatches of the first hold in which frozen pork half-carcasses were stored. The watch navigation officer took us to the captain of the trawler.

Captain V. Voronovskiy told us: "We spent 20 days loading at a Dutch port because the pork half-carcasses were delivered to our vessel by refrigerated trucks from East Germany. The dates of slaughter of the animals ranged widely—from the beginning of last year to November, and the pork came without fabric packaging which is customary in Western countries. This is why we were in a hurry to get to a northern port in order to retain the quality of the perishable products."

We asked the captain: "When did the Glavflot [Main Administration of General Freight Fleet] indicate the unloading point for your vessel?"

"On 11 December, and we put out to sea on 19 December, despite stormy weather. As sailors say, we made it to the Kola Bay on the crest of a cyclone one day before schedule. Our efforts were in vain, however...."

What prevented the Murmansk port and railroad workers from unloading the vessel at least a day later? We approached the deputy chief of the port, V. Ivanov, with this question. He explained: A report on the approach of the vessel and a distribution list for the meat products were received by the port and the railroad division from the Murmansk office of the All-Union Association for Transportation Abroad as late as 20 December. The next day, the coordination council of the transportation junction was convened. At the meeting, the railroad employees stated that the port would not be able to receive refrigerated cars by 25 December. They said that they had no cars of their own available for loading. Nobody knew when cars from Leningrad would be received, despite the fact that they had sent a telegram on the arrival of a vessel with foreign pork to the administration of the October Railroad. They departed at that point.

The chief of the Department of Container Traffic of the Murmansk Division of the October Railroad, G. Shenkevich, could not clarify the situation either. Let us note that reports on the arrival of vessels and lists of freight distribution should be given to railroad personnel at least 10 days in advance. Otherwise they do not have time to request and deliver to the port the required number of sections from Leningrad, because refrigerated cars carrying fish cannot be loaded with meat without prior sanitary treatment. In Murmansk Oblast, there is no washing facility for refrigerated cars. There used to be one at the nearby station of Taybola, but five years ago it was closed down: After the cars were washed, "fishy" water would end up in the subsurface water of the Kola river which was used for drinking water.

To be sure, G. Shenkevich said that several sections would arrive at the port from Leningrad within hours. But he did not know how many or when. Meanwhile, a good deal were required—150 refrigerated cars for unloading the meat from the trawler German Mattern alone. On 6 January, another vessel with the same amount of imported meat will reach the port of Murmansk. The chief of the department had not heard a thing about that one. Did that mean that unloading would be delayed again?

L. Sidorenko, director of the Murmansk office of Soyuzvneshtorg [expansion not given], explained: "Under a general agreement signed by the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet and the former Ministry of Foreign Trade, we must forward distribution lists for ship cargoes to the port and the division of the railroad 48 hours before a vessel puts in. This agreement still has not been revised. This time, however, I received a report on 20 December and immediately sent messages by teletype to the port and the division of the railroad."

"The Main Administration of the General Freight Fleet sent a telex to the trawler concerning the port of destination for the cargo as early as 11 December, however. Why did you not report this immediately and give the port and railroad workers time to prepare?"

"Our clients in Moscow should answer this question rather than I."

As is known, the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers instructed the Republic Office for Trade in Milk, Meat, and Dairy and Meat Products to purchase for hard currency in capitalist countries 100,000 tons of meat products and 41,000 tons of butter through the USSR Ministry of Economic Relations Prodintorg in order to meet at least to a degree the demand of Russians for these foodstuffs which are now in short supply. The failure of establishments to coordinate brings about delays in transportation and delivery to areas where a shortage of meat products is creating social tension, however.

Meanwhile, it appears that in Moscow, at Prodintorg, the Republic Office for Trade in Milk, Meat, and Dairy and Meat Products, the Main Administration of General Freight Fleet, and the USSR Ministry of Railways, the issues of transporting imported foodstuffs are of little concern. Some of them purchased pork of dubious quality, others drew up a list for its redistribution among oblasts and autonomous republics, and yet others indicated the port of destination for the cargo, and still others gave instructions to deliver it to addressees. What about later—is it that nobody cares?

Most likely, in winter time the port of Murmansk will become the main transfer point for foodstuffs purchased in Western countries. The Baltic ports are not coping with the processing of cargo. As Captain V. Voronovskiy observed, in German ports the longshoremen are surprised that a "hungry Russia" is in no hurry to get the foodstuffs shipped.

Precise and timely information on the approach of meat caravans is necessary for port and railroad workers, however, if the entire transportation chain is to operate smoothly at the port. On top of this, the management of the Murmansk division of the railroad should urgently find an ecologically safe location for a washing facility for refrigerated cars in order not to drive empty refrigerator sections over 1,200 kilometers to Leningrad and back.

...Before filing this article, I called the chief of operations headquarters, deputy chief of the KGB Administration for Murmansk Oblast, G. Gurylev, and inquired about the situation in the port.

"Thirty-two refrigerated cars arrived at Murmansk station from Leningrad. Two sections of 10 cars turned out to have not undergone sanitary treatment, and loading meat into them is impossible. In general, unloading is organized as poorly as can be. In three days, only 450 tons of pork have been unloaded from the hold of the trawler German Mattern."

Such is the pace. On top of all this, it turned out that there is an emergency with the transport vessel Malakhitovyy. It delivered 100 tons of pork and 130 tons of beef purchased in Germany and Iceland by the Sevrybkholodflot [expansion not given] Administration for the fishermen of Murmansk. The local sanitary inspection service banned the off loading of meat because appropriate medical documentation for it was missing....

Ukrainian Food Coupons Termed 'Success'

914D0096A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Dec 90 Union Edition p 7

[Article by S. Tsikora: "The Ukraine Reduces Panic Buying"]

[Text] Kiev—The coupons, which the people call "perestroyka money," have apparently turned out to be more of a success than many thought: In the 45 days since they were introduced in the Ukraine, smoked foods, cereals, eggs, and various types of canned goods, things we barely remember, have already begun to reappear in the republic's stores....

A fact is a fact: The coupons were introduced and goods appeared in the stores!

How should we evaluate this change?

"We believe," said O. Slepichev, Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] minister of trade, "that we have succeeded in ending the panic. That is the main thing at this point. People have stopped fearing the future and buying up food goods. The constant presence on the shelves of the necessary minimum of products has chased away the 'specter of famine' which frightened a significant portion of the population in October of this year. Over that month alone 1.15 billion rubles [R] worth of goods were sold over and above the plan in the Ukraine, which corresponds to the growth of trade turnover for all of 1986!"

An inspection of the border rayons allowed them to calculate that approximately R3 billion worth of goods in short supply are being taken abroad annually and R8 billion are being taken into neighboring republics. Semilegal exchange between enterprises of different republics is calculated at another R10 billion: For example, canned goods are exchanged for lumber, clothing for fuel....

"With the introduction of coupons," said O. Slepichev, "we tried to resolve four problems. The most important was to guarantee goods to the population of the republic, and as a result only residents of the Ukraine were given the coupons. The second was to limit the activities of speculators in wholesale goods, who would not be able to buy up food and scarce products in large quantities without coupons. Third—to bring production and consumption into correspondence; that is, to try to return the people to living on their wages: They produced, they earned, and they purchased. Fourth—during the respite offered by the use of coupons, to prepare the republic's economy for operations under conditions of a market."

How justified are these hopes of the government of the Ukraine? Here are the very latest objective data: During November the amount of trade immediately fell below planned targets by R500 million. If we compare November with October, when panic raged on the market, it has declined by R1.8 billion!

A natural question arises: If the Ukraine has succeeded in halting the panic and stabilizing the situation on the market using coupons, why do other republics not carry out this same operation?

In principle, say the specialists, they can. Especially in the smaller republics. Goods will appear on the shelves and panic buying will stop. The specialists have no doubt of that. But they will not guarantee one thing—that the aforementioned measures will rule out a repetition of the

panic on the market in the future. Why not? The center has brought the financial system of the country to complete collapse and continues to put money into circulation that is not backed up by goods. V. Fokin, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, talked at the Fourth USSR Congress of People's Deputies about how it will all end: The Ukraine is the only republic which has not only prohibited emission of currency this year but has even removed about R2 billion from circulation this year. Meanwhile the USSR State Bank has put R25 billion of new currency into circulation! If the Ukraine did not "close itself off" from this avalanche of money with coupons, then everything would be swept from its stores.

In order to insure itself against financial tremors in the future the republic has prepared a law on its own bank. The legislature of the Ukraine is talking more and more often about the need to introduce its own money as well if the center does not immediately take extreme measures to repair the ruble. The quantity of goods on the shelves depends to a great degree precisely on this. When the ruble is healthy, there will be no need for such remedies as coupons and such "doctors" as militiamen.

Imported Consumer Items Hoarded on Tula Farm

PM0801091991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Arnold Pushkar under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Scarce Goods Hoarded at Starodubtsev's Farm"]

[Text] Tula—An event at the "Novomoskovskoye" agricultural association, where KGB and UBKhSS [Administration for the Struggle Against Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation] staffers sealed storehouses in which scarce imported goods had been kept for a long period in breach of trade rules, is being surrounded by rumor.

As stated by Yu. Grachev, deputy chief of the Tula Oblast Soviet Executive Committee UBKhSS, Japanese televisions, video recorders, refrigerators, and sewing machines; Yugoslav tanned sheepskin jackets and shoes; Austrian clothing; and other goods were discovered there during inventory.

The leaders of the Novomoskovskiy Rayon Consumer Association depot—where all these things were kept in accordance with instructions of the Central Union of Consumer Societies—explained that the goods in question are in the personal charge of V. Starodubtsev, chairman of the agroindustrial association, who is absent at the moment. Neither is anyone belonging to the agroindustrial association leadership able to explain in his absence what funds were used to acquire all this or whom the goods are intended for. UBKhSS staffers are continuing to investigate.

Seversk Nuclear Reactor Shuts Down

LD0201170891

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian, in its Vremya newscast at 1530 GMT on 2 January, carries a two-minute video report by G. Chudnyy on the shut-down of the country's first industrial atomic reactor on New Year's Eve at Seversk, a satellite of Tomsk. The inhabitants of the town have long been protesting the proximity of the power station, especially since the Chernobyl disaster, but because the station was under the control of the military, their protests were to no avail. Since conversion, however, the output of the chemical combine there has ceased to be in great demand and a decision was made to close the power station in steps. The first reactor was closed down in August, and now the second has also been shut down. In an interview Meshceryakov, head of the station, says the shut-down was planned and there will be no nuclear danger as a result of the operation.

The video shows a crowded control room at the station with everyone wearing white hats and overalls; a close-up of equipment; and an interview with station heads.

Zaporozhye AES 'Commercially Operational'

PM0801141591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Jan 91 Second Edition p 1

[Report by I. Sergeyev under the "Official" rubric: "Good News: Power Workers' Boost"]

[Text] Energodar, Zaporozhye Oblast, 7 Jan—After repair work, all five power units of the Zaporozhye AES [nuclear electric power station] are commercially operational. It now generates 100 million kilowatts of electricity per day. The AES power workers's collective is honestly carrying out its work without rallies or ostentatious fuss.

Production of Il-86 Airliner 'in Danger of Ending'

PM0801124991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by V. Belikov: "Is Production of the Il-86 Ending?]

[Text] The Il-86 wide-bodied airliner has completed its first 10 years of successful operation. However, the series production at the Voronezh aircraft plant is in danger of ending.

Neither the passengers on Aeroflot's domestic or foreign routes nor our aviators need to be convinced of the merits of the first Soviet airbus. Conceived as a "vacationers' plane" serving routes to mass tourist destinations in the Black Sea area, the Il-86 has today a nonstop flight range almost twice that originally planned. It carries passengers on such ultralong-haul routes as Moscow-Havana and Moscow-Buenos Aires.

Last year the fleet of these aircraft numbered 80, carried more than 10 million passengers, and on foreign routes accounted for more than one-quarter of all international flights effected by the Soviet airline. In addition, the configuration of the Il-86, with three built-in airstair doors and its own—that is to say, patented—system of stowing passengers' personal items by the "self-loading baggage" method has saved airport services hundreds of thousands of work hours.

These facts and figures have been carefully collated and analyzed at the Ilyushin Experimental Design Bureau and the aircraft series-production plant at Voronezh. There they naturally and carefully monitor the progress of their offspring. Incidentally, the design collective, its experimental production unit, and the Voronezh production association recently amalgamated to form the "Ilyushin" Association, which has brought their creative and business interests still closer together. Unfortunately, the recently formed association's immediate prospects are far from brilliant.

A. Mikhaylov, general director of the Voronezh Aircraft Production Association:

"The year 1991 may be the last one for the smooth, tried-and-tested series production of the 350-seat aircraft if the document agreed upon almost 15 years ago is put into effect. The Il-86's production termination date was then fixed without consideration, understandably, of the present critical situation that exists in air transport.

"Today one in every four or five people who want to travel by air is unable to do so because of a shortage of aircraft and fuel. One airbus is equivalent to two Tu-154's in terms of productivity, not to mention fuel savings. Simple arithmetic confirms that the six engines of a pair of Tu-154's will consume twice as much fuel as the Ilyushin's four small engines.

"I would add that our client and consumer—the Ministry of Civil Aviation—is also insisting that airbus production continue without fail for at least another 5 years. You can understand the aviators: They remember the sorry fate of the Il-14 and Il-18, which were pensioned off prematurely, resulting in the complete absence of a suitable aircraft for many kinds of flying tasks. Is it sensible to repeat old mistakes by abandoning further production of the Il-86 simply to conform to the letter of an outdated decision?"

G. Novozhilov, principal designer of the Ilyushin Experimental Design Bureau:

"We do not as yet consider our work of improving the Il-86 completely over, because we believe that it is possible to extend the aircraft's viability, giving it a 'new lease on life,' as it were, or, to be more precise, fitting it with more economical engines manufactured by the well-known U..S. company General Electric. Cooperation with that company has already been arranged. Realistic design studies for a new Il-86-4000 airliner have been prepared at the bidding of the Aeroflot Central Administration for International Air Traffic.

"This is an an aircraft which externally replicates exactly the shape of today's airbus, but has 400 passenger seats of improved design in the cabins. At the same time the necessary calculations have been made for fitting U.S. engines to the current 350-seat series-produced airbuses in Voronezh. Their range will increase to 6,000 km (the 400-seat version will have a range of 5,400 km). This will be an airliner capable of covering the distance between Moscow and Delhi or Yakustk in one flight.

"I am certain that the 'Ilyushin' Association could organize relatively quickly the production and after-sales servicing of the improved Il-86's with their increased holding capacity and flight range, and also carry out the necessary refitting of new engines to existing Soviet airbuses to serve long-haul domestic and foreign routes.

"The creation of a fleet of such aircraft in the country would make a fine addition to the transcontinental Il-96's which will appear at the end of 1991, and will enhance Aeroflot's prestige and competitiveness in world air transport."

Moscow International Post Office Increases Rates

PM0801095191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jan 91 Second Edition p 3

[INTERFAX report: "Tariffs Raised"]

[Text] The Moscow International Post Office has introduced new tariffs for sending mail abroad.

INTERFAX was told by a representative of the Soviet-French "EMS GARANTPOST" enterprise—one of whose founders is the Moscow International Post Office, which has transferred to the joint venture all rights to dispatch international mail—that the price hike is due to the increase in tariffs for Aeroflot air transportation and the increase in the commercial exchange rate of the ruble [R] (the cost of a shipment weighing under 250g to the United States has risen from R33 to R100, for instance).

The Moscow International Post Office's contracts with Soviet organizations for payment for mail on a noncash basis in Soviet rubles have become invalid. Organizations have been instructed to conclude new agreements, with payment in hard currency. This is because the USSR Ministry of Communications will no longer compensate for the Moscow International Post Office's hard-currency expenditure.

At present the new tariffs have only been introduced in Moscow but, according to the "EMS GARANTPOST" spokesman, they will soon begin to operate in other cities of the USSR also.

Bank's Subordination to Council of Ministers Ends

LD0401210391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] In accordance with the USSR law on banks and bank activity, by decree of the Union government, the USSR Vneshekonombank [USSR Foreign Economic Bank] has been removed from subordination to the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers. The bank retains the functions that are stipulated in its charter.

Military

General on New Laws on Military Service, Reform

LD0801162191 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—A set of new Soviet laws providing legal basis for military reform and heightening the level of defence regulation, as well as defining the rights, duties and responsibilities of individuals in the field of defence has been drafted by the Soviet Defence Ministry, Major General Leonid Ivashov told TASS. A high-ranking Defence Ministry official, he was commenting on the publication by the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper of bills on defence, universal military duty and military service, as well as the status of servicemen.

According to Ivashov, the new bills define for the first time in the history of Soviet Armed Forces the status of servicemen. Military service is defined as a specific kind of state service which is given priority over other kinds of labour activity. The draft procedure is redefined.

General Ivashov pointed out that the country lacked a clear-cut system of regulatory enactments defining the country's military policy, the structure and management of defence and material supplies for defence purposes, the division of powers between the central and republican authorities, bodies of state authority and government.

"We still lack clear-cut legislation defining the rights of individuals doing their national duty," Ivashov said. He added that "many current regulatory enactments concerning defence and military service no longer meet modern-day requirements."

According to the general, some republics took advantage of these gaps in legislation to evade their defence obligations and even directly violated the law".

According to Ivashov, the new system of laws on defence, due to be approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet this coming spring, is based on the Soviet Constitution and the provisions of the new Union treaty. He said that the law on defence would serve as the basis for future Soviet legislation in the field. The draft has already been sent to all union republics and submitted to the bodies of supreme state authority.

"The system we propose is not static, not final," the general stressed. "It will change in line with changes in federal and republican laws and the situation in the country," he stressed.

Belousov Details 'Diminished' Military Exports

LD0801204991 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—"The Soviet Union exported almost 56.7 billion roubles worth of armaments and military hardware over the past five years, including approximately 9.7 billion roubles worth in 1990. Free military aid over the past five years ran at 8.5 billion roubles," Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov said in interview published in the regular issue of the PRAVITELSTVENNY VESTNIK (GOVERNMENT HERALD) weekly.

The amount of arms exports has sharply diminished over the past five years compared with the previous five-year period, Belousov said. Aid through the detailing of military specialists has been of much lesser scope. The Soviet Union has never supplied either chemical or nuclear weapons, he said.

Trade in Soviet weapons is the monopoly of the state. Recipient countries undertake not to trasfer without the Soviet Union's sanction or re-export Soviet weapons to third countries, Belousov said.

"The strategic interests of the Soviet Union and the maintenance of the overall balance of forces in the world are taken into account in arms trade.

"To the USSR, arms trade has always been of a political nature: it was mainly a question of our allies in the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and developing countries, as well as some other states, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, India, Vietnam, North Korea, Algeria, Libya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Cuba.

"Any Soviet military deliveries to Iraq were halted following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," Belousov added.

He believes that the possibility of the delivery of Soviet weapons to capitalist states should not be discarded altogether. "on the initiative of some Western countries, the possibility of concluding deals for the sale of Soviet MiG aircraft is now being explored, but it is too early to speak about any specific results," Belousov said.

On the whole, recipients of Soviet military hardware and weapons have been as a rule quite scrupulous in paying for them. But there are debtors as well. The aggregate amount of debts for both economic and military aid is 86 billion roubles.

Belousov denies assertions by some Western newspapers that the Soviet Union will flood the market with its

weapons and equipment released as a result of the conclusion of arms control accords.

Armaments that are subject to cutbacks are largely eliminated while tanks and other military hardware are actively utilised in the civilian economy upon being converted.

Ethnic Clashes Between Soldiers Reported in Chop

PM0801143191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by correspondent S. Romanyuk: "Chop: Guard Opened Fire"]

[Text] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has reported an armed conflict in a military unit of the Carpathian Military District. Although the investigation has not been completed, several of the circumstances related to the tragedy have been revealed. It was caused by non-statutory relations that developed an ethnic aspect. Soldiers of Kazakh and Central Asian nationalities waged implacable "night-time" battles among themselves.

Fights and insults had become a customary occurrence. The winners were those with numerical superiority. On that December night the Kazakhs were in the minority. Under the "enemy's" onslaught they retreated to the unit headquarters. A guard was raised at the alarm. But even after warning shots had been fired into the air the pitch of passions was not successfully extinguished. Then the guard members opened barrage fire between the groups as they closed on each other.

Nonetheless, bloodshed was not successfully avoided. The bullets, striking concrete, ricocheted in various directions. Some 15 men, including the unit deputy commander for political affairs, were wounded. Some 22 men sought medical aid. About 100 soldiers fled the unit compound. It is true that by morning the majority had returned to barracks.

"The state of the army reflects the situation in society," General V. Melnichuk, prosecutor of the Carpathian Military District, said, commenting on the events.

Improved Army Discipline in Germany Noted

LD0801170491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1018 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Voronenkov]

[Text] Berlin, 8 January (TASS)—At present there is not a single armed deserter from the western army group on FRG territory. A.M. Perepelitsa, military prosecutor of the eastern troops' group and a major general in the justice department, has reported this to a TASS correspondent. The 1990 results indicate that the state of discipline among troops in the western group was not bad. There was an 18.3 perecent reduction in the overall number of incidents, breaches of regulations governing relations between servicemen were down by three percent, incidents involving vehicles were down by 32 percent, and there was a 26.6 percent drop in crimes against the German population.

We are nonetheless on the look-out for the small number of cases that do occur involving evasion of military service. There were 152 of these in 1990, not thousands as reported by certain sections of western media.

Individual cases do arise in the western army group when servicemen are driven to leave their units by incorrect actions or attitudes on the part of fellow servicemen and certain commanders, and by their tactlessness and crudeness. These are isolated incidents, however, and are not a determining factor in the level of evasions of military services.

No serious crimes such as premeditated murder or the infliction of grievous bodily harm were recorded against the German population in 1990.

Concerning cooperation between the military prosecutor's office of the western army group and the local law and order bodies, A.M. Perepelitsa noted: "We are working with our German colleagues to find mutually acceptable positions and to elaborate principles on cooperation." Both sides have set up working groups on legal matters and administrative cooperation. These groups will hold their first conference this month.

The military prosecutor's office of the western army group favors constructive cooperation and openness in these relations as well as joint efforts to eradicate everything that hampers the normal life and activity of troops, Soviet servicemen, and the German population, the military proscutor said in conclusion.

Moiseyev Addresses 'Vystrel' Academy Students

PM0801150991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel I. Yesyutin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "On the 'Vystrel' Courses"]

[Text] Moscow—The new training year at the Marshal of the Soviet Union B.M. Shaposhnikov "Vystrel" Higher Officer Courses began with an address to students by Army General M.A. Moiseyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR fist deputy defense minister. As a participant in the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies, he spoke about the discussion there of problems connected with transforming the structures of state management and signing the Union Treaty. The resolution of these questions, Army Gen. M.A. Moiseyev emphasized, will also directly affect the implementation of the military reform.

He went on to dwell in detail on the main areas of the transformation of the Armed Forces, particularly the measures to be implemented in the Ground Forces,noting here the great role of officers at regiment level, who make up the majority of the students on the courses. The speech allocated significant space to resolving questions of strengthening servicemen's social protection.

Baltic Republics

Prunskiene To Meet With Gorbachev in Moscow

LD0801123491 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budrys]

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene arrived here today.

Prunskiene and Lithuanian permanent representative in Moscow Egidijus Bickauskas today met President Mikhail Gorbachev, a Lithuanian mission representative told TASS. He did not elaborate.

Prunskiene and Bickauskas are expected to return to Vilnius later today.

Prunskiene Appeals to People

LD0801123291 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Kazimiera Prunskiene, leader of the Lithuanian Government, is not present among the deputies today. She is not taking part in today's session because the prime minister is in Moscow on an important mission. She made a phone call to our editorial board at about 1030. Her call included an appeal to the people of Lithuania.

[Begin Prunskiene recording] Good day to everybody, esteemed people of Lithuania. I am appealing to you from Moscow, where I arrived by decision of the delegation for negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Last night the negotiations delegation adopted a decision to send me to meet President Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss pressing issues. First of all, concerning the actions of the Armed Forces in Lithuania, we are greatly concerned about the safety of our young men who are facing obvious danger. There is no doubt that this cannot take place without the knowledge of the president. Therefore I will raise this issue as one of the first priority. The negotiations delegation wants to clarify the further progress of negotiations, bearing in mind the fact that it has become absolutely undefined, especially in connection with the fact that Ryzhkov, leader of the delegation, is meanwhile not engaged in the matters at all.

I also would like to tell you that I have contacted President Gorbachev by telephone, he promised me that during the period of eight hours [of the USSR Supreme Soviet session] he would receive me. Together with E. Bickauskas, our representative in Moscow, I believe that we will have the possibility of voicing all pressing issues and of clarifying President Gorbachev's position on them.

Very complex processes linked to many issues are taking place in Lithuania today. I hope that the Supreme Council—which was strongly attacked today, both from the right wing and especially from the left wing, the so-called Yedinstvo forces, carrying placards and slogans directed against the government and the Supreme Council—will start discussing the main issues, searching for the right solutions. Confidence in the government and other issues which might arise concern me directly, and no doubt I will be present at the discussion of these issues.

I would like to make an appeal to Lithuanian people that in these complex days they not succumb to provocations, and I hope that the meeting with President Gorbachev will help to clarify other issues which are in this case not connected with the issues of prices, but connected with political stability, the actions taken by the military forces, and the confiscation of property, of Lithuanian property, at the Lithuanian border. I have in mind the incident that took place a couple of days ago. I am not sure that I will succeed in solving this in the best way; we must, however, try to do it nevertheless.

On my return I will inform Lithuania about the results achieved in Moscow, and we will go on elucidating the problems facing us in our internal life. Thank you for your attention. Let everybody show calm and restraint. [end recording]

Deployment Not Discussed

AU0801144091 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 8 (AFP)—President Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday refused to discuss the deployment of paratroopers in Lithuania with Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene of the Baltic republic, a Lithuanian official here said. Mr. Gorbachev told Mrs. Prunskiene that she should speak to the Defence Ministry about the deployment, the spokesman for the Lithuanian permanent mission here said. The meeting was also attended by the head of the mission, Egidius Bickauskas.

The Lithuanian information bureau in Vilnius said earlier Tuesday that a column of 108 military vehicles drove into the capital overnight.

The Soviet leader suggested the Lithuanian government request a meeting with the military chief-of-staff, General Mikhail Moiseyev, in the absence of Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov, spokesman Lionginas Vassiliauskus said.

Mrs. Prunkskiene arrived in Moscow early Tuesday after Soviet troops were sent to Vilnius to compel military conscripts to accept the draft. Soviet media said paratroopers were sent to seven other republics.

Mr. Gorbachev and Mrs. Prunskiene also discussed possible negotiations on Lithuanian independence during their 30-minute meeting, which "as usual with Mr. Gorbachev, was held in a benevolent atmosphere", Mr. Vassiliauskas said. The Soviet leader "at least three times" expressed his commitment to a referendum in Lithuania on independence, the spokesman added.

Mrs. Prunskiene left for Lithuania immediately after the meeting.

Meanwhile Tuesday, President Vytautas Landsbergis appealed on the radio for citizens to rally around the parliament building in downtown Vilnius "to support liberty and Lithuanian independence", local journalists said.

The appeal followed a demonstration outside parliament in the morning by "Russians" and "soldiers" to protest against price increases of 200 to 800 per cent which were due to come into affect Monday. The local parliament later cancelled the price increases. Calling on the population for support, Mr. Landsbergis said that"an armed hand can fall on our heads at any time".

"Let's stick to our objective, our right to have our own state. Please, come and support your government, otherwise you run the risk of waking up to a foreign government," he added.

Gorbachev Urges Referendum

LD0801153991 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1443 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by observer Ceslovas Iskauskas from the "Pulse of the Planet" program]

[Excerpts] Today there is a tense atmosphere both in Moscow and in Vilnius. Our review will therefore be somewhat shorter, and as the radio is relaying the important sittings of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, I will begin with other events. [passage omitted]

Information agencies have already reported that last night scores of military armored vehicles entered Vilnius from the west. The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes an interview with a high-ranking officer who said that their role in Lithuania has been excessively increased, but does not threaten a coup.

In the morning Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene went to Moscow to meet with the Soviet Union's president, to discuss the introduction of a paratroopers into Lithuania and other military matters. Just now we received information that this meeting has taken place. The actions of the Soviet Army in Lithuania in the last few days, and the attempts to take young people by force into the Soviet Army, were discussed during the meeting. Mikhail Gorbachev replied that negotiations on this problem between the Soviet Union's Ministry of Defense and Lithuania are essential, and should start in the nearest future. During the conversation, which lasted half an hour, the problem of the interstate negotiations between the Soviet Union and Lithuania was touched upon. Mikhail Gorbachev said that it would be solved next Saturday at a meeting of the Council of the Federation.

Gorbachev noted several times during the conversation that the issue of Lithuania's independence should be solved by a referendum of residents of the Republic of Lithuania.

Participanting in the conversation from the Lithuanian side was the permanent representatives of the Lithuanian Government in Moscow, Egidijus Bickauskas.

TASS Details Meeting

LD0801161791 Moscow TASS in English 1542 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 8 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev and Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene met in Moscow today to discuss the Soviet Army's activity on Lithuanian territory and prospects for talks between the leaders of that Republic and Soviet central authorities, press-secretary of the Lithuanian permanent office in Moscow Lenginas Vasiliauskas told TASS.

President Gorbachev said that the problem of drafting Lithuanian young men for service with the Soviet Armed Forces should be decided by representatives of the USSR Defence Ministry in conjunction with representatives of the Republic, according to Vasiliauskas.

The president promised to raise the question of talks between Moscow and Vilnius at the meeting of the Federation Council on Saturday. The Lithuanian government will be informed of the decision made by the Council.

During the meeting, Vasiliauskas told TASS, President Gorbachev spoke in favour of holding a referendum on self-determination in Lithuania.

Prime Minister Prunskiene left for Vilnius today.

Prunskiene Resigns at Supreme Council Session

LD0801190191 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1810 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Summary From Poor Reception] The Lithuanian Supreme Council held a session today. "Having returned from Moscow, the republic's Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene [words indistinct] and stated that she is resigning."

TASS Reports Resignation

LD0801181491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1805 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 8 Jan (TASS)—The Lithuanian Government, headed by Kazimiera Prunskiene, has resigned.

Addressing deputies of Lithuania's Supreme Soviet today, the head of the cabinet gave as the reason for this step the manifest differences in the approaches of the

government and parliament to the economic policy of the republic. The resignation was adopted by 72 votes, with 8 votes against and 22 abstentions.

Lithuania Supreme Council 8 Jan Session Detailed

LD0801121991

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0808 GMT on 8 January begins to carry live the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius.

The session is in progress when the coverage begins. Supreme Council Chairman Landsbergis is chairing the session and proposing today's agenda. He stresses the need to deal first with price increases.

At 0810 GMT, Deputy Abisala urges deputies to seriously contemplate the importance of the issues the Supreme Council will be examining.

At 0812 GMT, Deputy Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas says that Prime Minister Prunskiene has left for Moscow to discuss problems of concern to Lithuania. He proposes not to introduce any changes in the agenda, to discuss matters as planned and wait for Prunskiene's return to discuss other issues.

At 1815 GMT, Landsbergis asks for a vote to suspend the government's decision to increase retail food prices. He says:

"I do not need to remind you, the participants in the events yesterday yesterday around and inside the Supreme Council, that this tension being artificially created in Lithuania—partially also by the objective economic conditions, but which, in an especially threatening manner, is being created from outside—is still present. Yesterday attempts were made to create a pretext for clashes in Vilnius. We succeeded in neutralizing this, thanks to the endurance and discipline of the officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including a special subunit which also sustained casualties."

Landsbergis continues: "If you have read the TASS reports, you can see how attempts are being made to present everything in a distorted manner: what has happened and what has not happened; great unrest in Vilnius and in Klaipeda. But nothing happened in Klaipeda. It seems it has been ordered in advance. This should have happened, and was reported this way. Thus the order has not been fulfilled—attempts will most likely be made to fulfill it today.

We know that there will be people supporting the Supreme Council; there will be people protesting, as yesterday. Some of them may be really dissatisfied or misled; some of them are fulfilling their tasks. We must look for people looking for accord and for explanations, and I would therefore like to ask all deputies to be ready to go out and talk to the demonstrators. It would be good to talk in other languages. The deputies of Lithuanian nationality should not be the only ones to take part in such conversations. Such contacts are always essential, and today it may be very essential. We must be vigilant in ensuring that provocateurs—and there will not be a few of them—do not succeed in inciting people."

Landsbergis states: "We are facing a most important task with the resignation of the government leader." "The situation is not the best, neither in Lithuania—especially when attempts are being made from the outside to present it in a distorted mirror. Our work and care in reorganizing the government—and first of all in deciding on its leadership—must therefore be constructive and sufficiently fast." A vote is taken and by a majority of 100 votes it is decided to suspend the government's decision on price increases.

At 0825 GMT, deputies begin to discuss the lack of protection at the Supreme Council building when unauthorized persons entered the building this morning.

At 0827 GMT, proposals are made to amend the agenda.

At 0833 GMT, by a majority of votes deputies decided to remove discussion on the draft budget from the agenda.

At 0838 GMT, the announcer interrupts the relay and says that there is unrest in front of the Supreme Council building. Anti-Lithuanian slogans can be heard. At 0840 GMT the relay continues. Deputies are debating amendments to the agenda. A vote is taken.

At 0855 GMT, the agenda is adopted.

At 0900 GMT, Brazauskas takes the floor and make a brief report on price increases. He describes the requirements of the economy, production, and wages in general terms and asks deputies not to fan passions but to debate everything as calmly as possible.

At 0912 GMT, the deputy minister of economy (name is indistinct) makes a statement on the increase in food prices. He explains the difficulties in supplying raw materials, their rising prices, problems in feeding livestock, etc.

At 0925 GMT, another deputy reports on the price increases. He gives various details comparing prices, the cost of raw materials, wages, and explains compensation to low paid workers.

At 0940 GMT, a recess is declared until 1010 GMT.

Brazauskas answers deputies questions on food prices. He stresses the losses inflicted to Lithuania's economy by Moscow's blockade and the difficulties in reaching trade agreements with other republics because of changing prices.

AT 1058 GMT, the deputy minister of economy replies to deputies questions on price increase effects on the economy.

At 1130 GMT, reception deteriorates. Indistinct statement are heard on protecting the Supreme Council building. There follows an announcement on meetings of legislative factions.

At 1135 GMT, a recess is declared until 1300 GMT.

At 1300 GMT, Deputy Abisala asks Dobrovolskis, minister of social security, to answer deputies questions on compensation to people with limited income.

At 1332 GMT, Deputy Lubys makes a statement on behalf of Lithuanian businessmen:

"Esteemed deputies, esteemed Presidium and chairmen: Last Saturday the Association of Lithuanian Industrialists held an extended meeting to discuss the situation developing at industrial enterprises as a result of price increases on the one hand, and on the other hand because industrialists are being completely ignored by the Council of Ministers and its ministries, [passage indistinct]. This means that the industrialists' opinions are being ignored. Not only is their opinion not being heard, they are not even asked to voice their opinion.

"Thus I have been entrusted with the task of making the following appeal to the Republic of Lithuania Supreme Council and the government:

"Statement Concerning the Crisis Situation in the Lithuanian Economy.

"The economic and social position of Lithuanians is rapidly deteriorating, the political and spiritual crisis is growing, the culture is declining. The threat of general chaos, mutual distrust, suspiciousness, and the feeling of uncertainty are growing. Fear is returning, personal safety is declining, and tensions within the government are becoming more acute.

"The economic reforms have been dragged out without justification. The legalization of freedoms in managing the economy has been drowned in everlasting unconstructive discussions.

"The decision the government adopted on price increases on food products has nothing to do with the price reform and contradicts the logic of a transition to the market economy. All these have a disruptive effect on the Lithuanian economy and move the real implementation of Lithuania's independence further away.

"Having assessed this we demand:

"1. That the government revoke its decision on food price increases and fully prepare the price reform program and compensate the population's real income along the guidelines of the transition to market prices.

"2. No introduction of restrictions on wages and consumption funds except for those which the Republic of Lithuania laws have envisaged.

"3. That the past legislative acts of government which restrict the freedom of action of the economy and commerce which have been defined by the Law on Lithuanian Enterprises be revoked without delay.

"4. The freedom of economic activities in Lithuania should be legally reinforced and defended. The administrative command system of managing the economy must be dismantled concurrent with abolishing the monopoly on state property ownership and privatizing state enterprises, organizations, and apartments. A flexible taxation system should be applied which will promote capital investment.

"We hope that in this complex economic situation our concepts will be supported by the people of this republic to reinforce the economic freedoms of each individual. We invite all democratic movements of Lithuania and trade unions to cooperate in preventing the spread and thriving of bureaucracy and the shadow economy which impede the setting up of a democratic and independent state.

"The Council of the Association of Industrialists."

At 1336 GMT, deputies debate price reforms.

At 1431 GMT, a recess is announced until 1500 GMT.

At 1500 GMT, Deputy Grakauskas takes the floor to discuss state purchase prices for agricultural products.

At 1515 GMT, debates on price increases continue. Deputy Simenas draws attention to the budgets of ordinary people.

At 1532 GMT, a commission is formed to investigate today's events and report to the Supreme Council.

At 1535 GMT, Deputy Antanavicius reads a statement by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party. The statement says that prices should be increased, that compensation should be paid, and that the party will explain the need for economic reform to the Lithuanian people.

At 1547 GMT, a majority of deputies vote to discontinue debate on economic reform. Debate on a report on an amendment to the basic law requiring a simple majority in a no-confidence vote is also discontinued.

At 1548 GMT, reception deteriorates to unmonitorable. Reception improves at 1603 GMT, as debate on amendments is taking place. The deputy in the chair announces that Kazimiera Prunskiene has returned from Moscow and is in the hall.

At 1607 GMT, Deputy Cepaitis reads a letter from a voter complaining about price increases. Reception deteriorates as an announcement is made regarding a roll-call vote on the basic law amendments.

At 1608 GMT, reception is unmonitorable, improving to poor at 1620 GMT as deputies debate a proposal to continue the session without a recess.

At 1630 GMT, Deputy Vagnorius takes the rostrum. He details several rural economic reform variants, and criticizes government inactivity in implementing certain mechanisms proposed by the Supreme Council.

At 1640 GMT, deputies review the result of a vote on an unidentified subject. Names are read, providing voting preferences. The decision is adopted. Reception deteriorates until 1650 GMT, when Deputy Vagnorius suggests that Prunskiene present her report on the Moscow talks, and that debate be postponed until tomorrow.

At 1655 GMT, Landsbergis speaks about today's proceedings. He says the Supreme Council Presidium should meet in plenary session for reasons other than price increases. He says:

"The principal dangers lie elsewhere. I can give you some information about what was being said at the conclusion of the USSR Supreme Soviet meeting. Listen, Grafik Musanov announced with deep sorrow that, and I quote, disturbances have begun in Lithuania, caused by thoughtless politics. Truncheons and water cannons have been employed etc., however, there have been no casualties, yet. The disturbances are taking place in Vilnius and Klaipeda. So far, there have been no casualties. Musanov is showing a yearning behind these words. It appears that the Supreme Council and the government are no longer in control of the situation [again quoting Musanov]. This is also wishful thinking. That is why we must work to overcome the situation."

A 15-minute recess follows Landsbergis' remarks.

The relay resumes at 1715 GMT, as debate continues on price increases. Deputy Beriozovas suggests that price increases are used as political provocation. He says lithuania is in danger, and care should be taken in accusing one another. Unity should be sought, he says.

At 1725 GMT, Prime Minister Prunskiene takes the floor to give a five-minute report on her discussions with Gorbachev then answers deputy's question. Hes says:

"Yesterday, upon learning that a complicated situation was developing in all the Baltic states, and having consulted with neighbouring republics, first of all with the Latvian premier, consultations were initiated with the Supreme Council [of Lithuania] leadership and within the delegation, concerning such a meeting [with Gorbachev]. Well, today we were received, for just over half an hour, and we discussed current concerns.

"First, concerning the Army actions. The question concerning the safety of our young men. This was listened to, without any sort of specific position being indicated. In other words, the president suggested that Bickauskas and I go immediately to the Defense Ministry to see Deputy Defense Minister Moiseyev, and he himself promised to phone ahead, about this meeting, and to answer these questions. As we had to return, we delegated the job to esteemed Butkevicius. We asked esteemed Butkevicius to phone the Defense Ministry in Moscow and to confirm that such an arrangement has been made.

"We made several attempts to resolve that question with the president, but he [several words indistinct].

"The second issue relates to the possibility of a meeting between the negotiation delegations. [passage indistinct] and therefore the question of the possibility of continuing consultations or negotiations, in the near future, did not ellicit a definite answer, nor did the subject of our seeking international standards. He views the possibility of discussing our question as being parallel to the Union treaty, which it appears will be discussed at the [word indistinct] Council in Moscow, this Saturday. In this instance, having defined it once more, it was agreed that after this deliberation, a meeting could be set up for this.

"The third issue centers around the fact that he believes our question should be decided by a referendum. We did not go deeply into this discussion and did not even express our view of this, but simply [word indistinct]. Well, it was emphasized that the people's feeling toward the USSR should be tested in that manner. Moreover, in closing that [word indistinct] it was stated, that if this was tested then the [word indistinct] will commence. It will be [word indistinct] according to the law—he emphasized—according to the law.

"Thus, the conversation took place within such a context and, as you have been given to understand, it was not concluded very definitively. I think that the young men's question, could be defined more accurately in the future—we have emphasized the same position we have always repeated. That is, the young men's [word indistinct], our opposition to the use of force, which comments we [passage indistinct]."

At 1740 GMT, Vytautas Landsbergis asks if Prime Minister Prunskiene resignation is accepted. He puts the question formally to the deputies, saying: "I am not totally certain whether we must accept this resignation by a vote, or simply pose the question verbally—do we accept the resignation? Perhaps in order to avoid some later doubts, we should take a vote. [passage indistinct] Who is for accepting Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene's resignation?" Deputies vote. Poor reception obscures vote results.

At 1745 GMT, Landsbergis thanks Prunskiene and praises her for being very industrious. He says:

"Now, I wish to express a few words of gratitude to the former prime minister, whom I myself nominated at the onset of our—Lithuania's and the Supreme Council's—path of existence. I proposed her for he post, and I have supported her in this post. We used to hold discussions and exchange criticisms. I can say that the prime minister in my memory [word indistinct] criticism [passage indistinct] I respect her for that, and I think our cooperation has been fruitful. We know that the prime minister is exceptionally industrious. She worked a great deal, in this post of hers. She is in a better position to know whether collective work was always successful [word indistinct] the government [word indistinct] was there sufficient time and [word indistinct] for a very wide scope of activity and very great action, in political and

international politics and also in internal affairs. It was probably due to that that decisions were sometimes hurriedly taken and that [word indistinct] were avoided by all of us.

"Now, esteemed Kazimiera Prunskiene has made this decision herself. [passage indistinct] Such an opportunity should be exploited, since we all held a meeting yesterday, on account of this. Such is our existence.

"The legislature also hears accusations, very sharp ones, and also very [word indistinct] perhaps, someday we will learn to be more tactful and criticism will also wield more tactful force.

"The prime minister is very strong, however. [passage indistinct] Moreover, we have no doubt, she will be very useful and very active in her duties as deputy, and it is also very possible, within the context of a new government. I do no think that the government has to be [words indistinct] it will be a matter for consultation. Now, in thanking once more the esteemed prime minister for almost one year of labor, in a very difficult, and demanding post, just as remembered [passage indistinct]."

At 1750 GMT, Landsbergis discusses procedural matters. several deputies join in discussion.

At 1755 GMT, Landsbergis again asks Prunskiene to stay on during the formation of a new government.

The live relay concludes at 1800 GMT.

Council Suspends Food Price Hikes

LD0801112791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1103 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius 8 Jan (TASS)—Public pressure today forced the Lithuanian Supreme Council to suspend the retail price increases imposed on foodstuffs 7 January. This was done virtually without debate, and even before the agenda for the resumption of the parliamentary session had been confirmed.

This undoubtedly indicates that the crisis is growing in Lithuania's organs of power. The suspension of a government decision as important as price increases—one that had already come into force—makes the resignation of the cabinet of ministers perfectly feasible. It is impossible to debate the republic's budget for 1991, since the new prices proposed by the government lie at its very heart.

The situation outside the parliament buildings remains troubled. There are calls being made there against the republican leadership.

Prunskiene Says Price Hikes 'Unavoidable Action'

LD0801212191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Since early this morning, the square in front of the Lithuanian legislature has been filled with people protesting the government's decision to raise food prices on 7 January. The situation was becoming very alarming and Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, had to appeal to the population to come to the legislative building to save their power. According to observers, this undoubtedly means that a crisis is mounting within Lithuanian bodies. Calls for the resignation of the cabinet have been made. Our correspondent reports from Vilnius:

[Correspondent A. Paulyus] This is what the prices looked like as recently as this morning: A loaf of Lithuanian bread was R1.72 instead of 0.36; a bottle of milk 0.72 instead of 0.24; a kilogram of butter up to R17; a kilogram of sausage R12 instead of R2; cheese R9.10 instead of R1.90, and so on.

Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene started her answer to a journalist, pegged to the decision [on prices] with the following words: As you see, the government had to go for an unpopular but unavoidable action—raising food prices. At the same time, one should recall that a decision on compensating for this increase was also adopted. Specific figures were given at the news conference [passage omitted]

During the news conference, pickets assembled at the Council of Ministers building. How are we to live, we and our children, this woman asks? Do we have to steal or what?

This morning the shops of Vilnius enterprises were deserted. Workers filled the square in front of the republican Supreme Soviet building. Their demands range from abolishing the government's decision on price increases to the government's resignation. The situation eased somewhat after Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, spoke on the republic's radio. He said that the government's decision on price increases has been suspended pending a review of the document.

[Announcer] According to observers, the discontent of the popular masses was, apparently, provoked not only by socioeconomic problems but also by the political situation which has come about in the republic as a result of the policy implemented by the Lithuanian leadership.

Lithuanian Coupon System, Food Problems Cited

PM0801165191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Nikolay Laskevich: "New Coupons in Lithuania"]

[Text] Vilnius—As IZVESTIYA has already reported, since 1 January Lithuania has switched to a coupon system for providing its citizens with basic types of food and some industrial products.

Incidentally, as yet this list excludes dairy products, with the exception of butter, and also milk and sausage. They are being sold freely—or rather, without coupons having necessarily to be presented. Whereas there is enough milk in Vilnius stores at present, meat seems to have become firmly established in the agonizingly scarce category for the first time in years. Henceforth, each citizen will be able to buy each month 400 grams of butter per "sugar" coupon and 10 eggs per "groats" coupon. Coupons have also appeared for sunflower oil (one bottle per quarter) and coffee. Coupons for industrial products are an innovation. People are allowed to buy one pair of socks or stockings per month for "sock" coupons, one item for "knitted underwear" coupons, and one item per half-year for "table linen" and "towel" coupons.

Naturally nobody was pleased with the new-year "coupon" gift, which came together with new prices for public transport fare coupons (16 kopeks). How has Lithuania, which has always been renowned for its full food counters, been reduced to stringent and, incidentally, extremely meager rations of basic food products?

You can find the answers in the statistics department's preliminary figures for last year. There was a sharp decline in production of agricultural output. Compared with 1989, grain production was down by 7,000 tonnes, meat production by 10,000 tonnes, milk production by 75,000 tonnes, and egg production by 58 million. The result has been a decline in per capita food availability. In a word, the economic recession in agriculture has had a monumental impact on consumers' tables.

The reasons for the deterioration in Lithuania's socio-economic situation last year are yet to be analyzed. One thing can be said fairly definitely: The way out of the economic crisis is not to be found in a ration card system and price rises.

Landsbergis Urges Crowds To Demonstrate Peacefully

LD0801112191 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0745 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Statement by Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuanian Supreme Council president, in Vilnius—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed people of Lithuania! Events in Vilnius are probably developing according to someone's advance plan.

The Supreme Council is holding a plenary session to discuss the political situation which has developed as a result of sudden price increases. The Supreme Council suspended this increase during the last days of December. [passage omitted]

However, we find it difficult to even start the session. Crowds of people have gathered and surrounded the Supreme Council building. It seems that they are mostly non-Lithuanians who have been subjected to biased inculcation, instructions, and even intoxication. Among them are many people who are drunk and will not allow us to go out and talk to the crowd and explain that it was not the Supreme Council that increased prices, in case they are even interested in prices. There is no way to explain that price increases and the disappearance of goods are also taking place in the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

There is no way to explain this. The people who prepared the crowd had been inciting them for weeks before so that in case any price increases were announced this incitement and this irresponsible crowd could be pushed against the Supreme Council.

As you know the Supreme Council is the greatest obstacle to those who want to drag Lithuania back into the Soviet quagmire. They need a conflict. They need it in front of the Supreme Council and not in front of the government building so there is a pretext to justify interference with military force.

We remember the days when the same kind of assaults were artificially organized in Riga and Tallinn in front of the Latvian and Estonian Supreme Council buildings. Then the people who understood what the real political situation was and who were determined to defend independence arrived at the Supreme Council building. This cooled down the hotheads and the drunk demonstrators and dissolved the tense situation.

Now I am asking responsible Lithuanians to have confidence in the Lithuanian Supreme Council. It will solve the problem which has risen as a result of the price increases. We want people to help us solve this, so that we can work, so that hooligan actions do not provide the pretext for the Army to resort to military hooligan actions.

Servicemen have begun to appear among the misled workers who have been drawn here. Therefore Vilnius residents who want the problems to be resolved in a peaceful, democratic parliamentary way, who want to defend our right to solve issues in this way without foreign interference, should also come to the Supreme Council building. I am not inviting you to take any action. The presence of differently thinking people with different slogans who are for independence and Lithuania's freedom should cool down those who were brought here to mislead people. This would help normalize the situation.

I also invite not only Vilnius residents but all people in Lithuania to understand the situation which has developed today. On one hand an armed fist is hovering over us, and it is ready to hit any day or perhaps any minute. On the other hand, the greatest efforts have been made to stir up mistrust among people.

We must be confident in our objectives, in our ideas, our sacred right to have an independent Lithuanian state. All other tasks, all other difficulties are nonessential. They are temporary and can be solved with the help of our joint efforts.

Come and render support to your state authorities. Otherwise foreign power may be imposed on you.

Sajudis Asks Lithuanians To Gather at Council

LD0801134891 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1130 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Esteemed people of Lithuania! The Seimas Council of the Lithuanian Sajudis appeals to all the residents of Vilnius, as well as other inhabitants of Lithuania who cherish the ideas and achievements of the Sajudis, to come to the building of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania today at 1500 [1300 GMT].

The threat to Lithuania is still there. We ask everybody not to yield to any possible provocations. Our common sense and our peaceful disposition has won on more than one occasion, and this is how it should be now as well. We must not be indifferent.

Brazauskas Reports on Vilnius 'Tense Situation'

LD0801151791 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Reports by unidentified TASS correspondent from Vilnius]

[Text] People protesting against price increases and also against the policies of the republican parliament and government gathered this morning at the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Presidium building. Given this situation the parliament, not having even confirmed the agenda for the session being reconvened, was forced to suspend the rise in retail prices for foodstuffs introduced on 7 January. Landsbergis, Supreme Soviet chairman, spoke on republican radio and called on the Lithuanian population to defend their authorities.

The government's decision to suspend the increase in food prices brought the situation somewhat back to normal. The Supreme Soviet continued its session embarking on a discussion of prices.

Deputy Prime Minister Brazauskas delivered a report. The tense situation, he said, has formed primarily because relations with the Soviet Union have not been settled, including those in the economic sphere, and because politics has been mixed up with economics. In his opinion the current situation can also be explained by the fact that so far the basic laws which open up the way to economic reform have not been passed. At the same time the administration structures have been destroyed. The majority of farms are on the verge of bankruptcy while the parliament is primarily dealing with the distributing what was produced earlier. Taking into account that the parliament session was being relayed on the radio, Brazauskas addressed trade workers recommending that trading at the prices introduced yesterday should cease after the lunch break and that shops be closed until special arrangements are made.

Reports were delivered by Jaseviciene, deputy minister of economics, and Dobrovolskas, minister of social security. They replied to deputies' questions. Meanwhile one got the impression that it was less important to deputies to throw light on the situation than to find people to blame.

The issue of resolving the fate of the government is being dealt with by Prime Minister Prunskiene. She is in Moscow where she intends to meet with President Gorbachev. At a press conference the previous evening in Vilnius Prunskiene admitted that the 7 January price increases announced by the government were extremely unpopular. It is quite probable that at the republican Supreme Soviet session reconvening on 8 January demands for the government's resignation will again be put forward, she said.

The threat to Lithuania has not yet passsed, says an appeal from the Sajudis council to residents of the Lithuanian capital, broadcast on the radio. They were called upon to gather at the Supreme Soviet building. At the same time Sajudis appealed to residents not to give in to provocations.

Protesters Clash Outside Lithuanian Legislature

LD0801174591 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius January 8 TASS—The attempt by the Lithuanian Government to raise food prices has caused an uproar in the republic. Thousands of dwellers of the capital gathered outside the parliament building early today to protest a sharp rise in prices as well as the policy pursued by the republican leaders.

Under public pressure, the parliament had to suspend the government decision. This was done practically without discussion, even before the agenda of the session was endorsed.

These developments undoubtedly point to a looming government crisis in Lithuania. The suspension of the government decision to raise prices is likely to be followed by calls for government resignation. It now looks impossible to discuss the republican budget for 1991 because it is based on the new prices suggested by the government.

Tensions continue to rise outside the parliament building. Anti-government slogans are heard. According to latest reports from Vilnius, there were clashes between protestors (mainly Russians and Poles) and law enforcement forces. The protestors broke a metal door to the parliament building but were forced back. Water cannons were used to disperse them. Clashes also began

between them and other demonstrators arriving in the square. In the meantime the parliament suspended the decision to raise prices.

Landsbergis Calls Public to Defend Building

LD0801193491 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1810 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Statement by the Information Service of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, read by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council—live]

[Text] The chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania has stated at a meeting with officials of the Information Bureau that, according to unofficial information, tomorrow, 9 January, they intend to storm and occupy by every means the Supreme Council building. The only force which can protect us, is you, dear Lithuanian people and Lithuania.

As in other instances when attempts have been made to compel us to give up our goals, we invite the residents of Vilnius and other Lithuanian people to be on duty tonight and tomorrow at the legislature building. These days may be decisive. Our cohesion and resolution are very essential now.

We propose the following timetable for watch: On 8 January from 2000—Fabioniskes; on 9 January from 2400—Pasilainiai; on 9 January from 0400—Virsuliskes; on 9 January from 0800—Zverynas; on 9 January from 1000—Antakalnis; on 9 January from 1200—Old City; on 9 January from 1400—Zirmunai; on 9 January from 1600—the station rayon; on 9 January from 1800—Savanoriu Prospektas; on 9 January from 2000—Karoliniskes; on 10 January from 0000—Seskine; on 10 January—Lazdynai; on 10 January from 0800—Naujininkai; on 10 January from 1200—Zirmunai.

For the town of Kaunas—from 1500 on 9 January until 1500 10 January; for the town of Panevezys - from 1500 10 January until 1500 11 January; for the towns of Siauliai—from 1500 11 January until 1500 12 January.

The information telephone in Vilnius is 615589.

Landsbergis Calls for 24-Hour Vigil Outside Council

AU0901080891 Paris AFP in English 0749 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 9 (AFP)—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis called for a round-the-clock citizens' vigil to protect legislature from attack and expressed the hope that most ministers will stay on in a new cabinet despite Tuesday's government resignation.

Speaking on local television Tuesday night, Mr. Landsbergis called on the people of Vilnius to hold the vigil to prevent "Soviet Army and pro-Moscow forces" from taking over the legislature building.

Speaking of the government's resignation, announced in legislature Tuesday evening by Premier Kazimiera Prunskiene, Mr. Landsbergis said the government would remain in office until a new one was formed.

"Legislative factions are having consultations on what changes will be made in government. I understand that the government reorganisation will be carried out and I hope that the majority of government members will work in the new government," he said.

"But the task of forming a new government should not let us ignore the dangers that are in our way to independence—through the action of the Army and of forces in Lithuania itself," he added.

"Tomorrow, we might have violent actions again," he said, referring to a rally by pro-Moscow demonstrators Tuesday morning outside legislature.

Legislative guards used a water hose to prevent protesters, angry at high price increases, from breaking into the building.

In response, Mr. Landsbergis called on the radio for a counter-demonstration by nationalists outside legislature, while deputies cancelled the price increases of between 200 and 800 percent.

The climb-down over prices appeared to be the main reason for Mrs. Prunskiene's sudden decision to resign, following her return Tuesday from talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow.

Legislature voted to accept the resignation by 72 votes to 8, with 22 abstentions.

In his televised address Tuesday evening, Mr. Landsbergis called "on the inhabitants of Vilnius to remain around the legislature building", warning that he had information that "an attack" by pro-Moscow forces was planned for Wednesday midday.

Lithuanian radio and television also constantly appealed for people to go to legislature to hold a vigil.

Addressing the Supreme Soviet in Moscow Tuesday, Rafik Nishanov, the chairman of the Council of Nationalities, one of the legislature's two chambers, said the situation had deteriorated in Lithuania as a result of the announcement of price increases.

This triggered "a very negative response" from the Lithuanian population, he added.

According to Mr. Nishanov, the population was also angry at the "numerous violations of basic human rights, the defilement of Soviet soldiers' graves and monuments and disregard for the main provisions of the Soviet Constitution".

In addition to calling for the suspension of the price hike, the people were also demanding "that efficient measures be taken to restore order in the economy and a stable situation be ensured in the republic".

"People have lost faith that those on whom living standards in the republic depend, can take effective measures".

The Soviet leadership "is attentively following the developments in the republic, conducting consultations and intends to take measures to stabilize the situation and prevent its unfavourable development," he added.

Paratroopers Arrive in Lithuania's Siauliai

LD0801220791 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The commander of the Baltic military okrug, basing himself on an order of Soviet Defense Minister Yazov, this morning stationed a paratrooper unit armed with combat weaponry at a Siauliai military unit.

We are talking to the instructor of the Siauliai branch of the country's defense department, Stasys Rimkus:

[Rimkus] According to my information, a paratrooper unit armed with combat weapons arrived today in Siauliai—"light tanks, eight Ural trucks carrying soldiers with two light artillery guns attached. There is a large number of youths who, guided by patriotic feelings and using their constitutional rights have left the service of the Soviet Army. About 90 percent of youths of autumn draft age have refused to serve the invaders, giving up their USSR citizenship and obtaining the certificates as citizens of the Republic of Lithuania. Thus, they support the decision of the Supreme Council restoring the independent Republic of Lithuania. I remind you again that Lithuania's citizens do not have to serve in a foreign army, they are conscripts of the republican country's defense department and will be defended by political and legal methods.

Troops Reportedly Approach Lithuanian City

LD0801231191 Vilnius International Service in English 2230 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The "LIETUVOS RYTAS" daily reports the movement of the big paratroopers unit from the south Lithuanian town of Alytus toward one of Lithuania's major cities, Panevezys. The unit is made up of 200 armed soldiers, 10 armored personnel carriers and more than 20 other cars. It is speculated the paratroopers will be entrusted with the guarding of some imporant premises. As is known, last week the paratroopers occupied the Latvian printing center in Riga.

Lithuanian Defense Department Staffer 'Kidnapped'

LD0901000691 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Although the compulsory rounding up of young men for conscription into the Soviet Army was announced only yesterday, individual attacks by soldiers of that country on citizens of the republic have been repeated for some time prior to USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov's order.

Several days ago a staff member of the Department for the Country's Defense, Vaitkunas, became one of their victims. Following a cruel beating, Soviet soldiers kidnapped him from his own apartment in Rokiskis rayon. Last spring, the young man had left the Soviet Army and had been recently serving in Lithuania's Border Defense Force.

Vilnius Radio Reports 'Calm' at Present

LD0901091291 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent Vidmantas Putelis from the Supreme Council building in Vilnius]

[Excerpts] I would like to inform you right away that everything is calm outside the legislature's building. A small crowd of Vilnius residents is mounting a vigil outside the legislature, and the building itself is guarded by a reinforced security unit. Traces of yesterday's dramatic events are no longer visible except perhaps the smashed windows which have not yet been replaced.

It became known today that two workers from a special subunit are seriously injured. They are Artis Purulis and Arvydas Skurdauskas. They are in the hospital at present. Stasys Glebus, chief of the Vilnius State Motor Transport Inspectorate, was also injured while courageously protecting the side entrance to the legislature building. Algis Sutkevicius, inspector for protection of public order, was also injured. No injuries have been reported on the side of the attackers. [passage omitted]

The first government of the reinstated independent Republic of Lithuania continues to carry out its duties. [passage omitted]

I have had the opportunity to talk to Audrius Butkevicius, director general of the department for the country's protection. I asked him how the night has passed in Lithuania. According to him and according to the information available to him, the night was rather calm. According to esteemed Butkevicius, movements of some Soviet army garrisons and meetings of the Yedinstvo movement took place. Otherwise it was a normal night.

It looks as if the Lithuanian Supreme Council will work in calmer circumstances today.

TASS Examines Roots of Lithuanian Problem

LD0801212391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1949 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS world service observer]

[Text] Moscow, 8 January (TASS)—The resignation of the government of Kazimiera Prunskiene today, which

followed mass disorders in Lithuania, brings the development of the situation in this Soviet Baltic republic to a qualitatively new stage. Reports arriving from Vilnius throughout the past 24 hours have increasingly resembled military dispatches and although there have been no casualties, thank God, the situation has so far been extremly heated, by all accounts.

In formal terms, the retail price reform proposed by the republic's government, based on increasing by several times the prices of essential goods, including food products, served to prompt the government crisis. Dissatisfaction brought thousands of people of all nationalities onto the streets and almost caused them to storm the parliament building. Its chairman, Vytautas Landsbergis, called on "those who hold dear the slogans of Lithuania's national independence to come to the legislature building and support their government and their legislature." Water cannon were used to disperse protestors among whom, according to Landsbergis, "there were many Russians and Poles and many drunks" (for some reason he "did not notice" Lithuanians). However the people's dissatisfaction did not abate, and by evening the Lithuanian Government was forced to lay down its powers.

There is no argument that the price increases played the role of detonator, but all the same I think that one cannot merely explain what has happened in terms of dissatisfaction with the new price lists. The roots of the crisis lie far deeper: They lie in the initial course of the Lithuanian leadership, which told its people that it is easier for the republic to get out of the profound crisis, in which the whole of Soviet society found itself, on one's own.

Exploiting the attractive slogans of independence and national rebirth, the Lithuanian leadership embarked on the path of openly violating the laws of the USSR. In so doing it incorrectly evaluated the potential of the economic reform and the willingness of the people for self-sacrifice. As a result, a clearly deadlocked political and economic course was chosen that gave rise to tremors that no government could have withstood.

The logical constructions of the Lithuanian leadership by which it justified this course likewise do not stand up to serious criticism. Yes, a crying injustice was permitted in 1939 with respect to Lithuania. Yes, the Stalin regime under whose heel it found itself was inhuman and terrible. Yes, if Lithuania had preserved its independence, it might today, perhaps, not be behind the level of economic development of a country like Denmark, say.

Yet the very same applies 100 percent to Russia itself, which at the turn of the 20th century was after all a power far more developed than Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, which formed part of it! Second, does it really follow from what has been said that today, half a century later, it is possible to restore the correlation of forces between Lithuania and, say, the 1939 model of Denmark?

Imagine a passenger late for a transatlantic steamship and then deciding to chase after his friends sailing on it by swimming! Lithuania has found itself in the role of such a swimmer. The lone swim to which its leadership, against all logic, prompted the republic, demanded of its people sacrifices for which it proved unprepared. I am certain that no small negative contribution to the worsening of the situation was also made by weakening economic relations between Lithuanian enterprises and their partner factories in other Union republics. As a result, the Lithuanian Government proved incapable of taming the genie which it had itself let out of the bottle.

Latvia Calls Troop Dispatch 'Blatant Aggression'

LD0801183391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1755 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 8 Jan (TASS)—The Latvian legislature has termed the USSR defense minister's order on carrying out mobilization on the territory of that republic using the Army as "an act of blatant aggression and gross trampling of state independence." This statement was adopted by the Latvian legislators today.

Most deputies believe that the introduction of an additional military contingent "sharply destablizes the situation in the republic, will irrevocably enhance anti-Army sentiments, and completely destroys the population's trust in the president of the USSR." They believe that conscription to the Army will only serve as "a pretext for a large scale attack on Latvian democratic institutions."

The Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet has also decided that all enterprises, establishments, organizations, officials, and residents must "abstain from collaborating with the military commissariats, USSR Armed Forces formations, and USSR establishments which are involved in the forceful mobilization of Latvian inhabitants."

The deputies of the opposition group "Ravnopraviye" [Equal Rights] did not take part in the discussion of or vote on this issue.

Latvia Troop Move 'Step' Toward Presidential Rule

LD0801184691 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1610 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Interview with Ivan Kezbers, chairman of the Latvian Democratic Party of Labor, and Talavs Jundzis, chairman of the Latvian parliamentary Commission for Defense and Internal Affairs, by unidentified interviewer; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Kezbers] The arrival of the paratroopers was a very great surprise to me. I did not expect them to appear, especially after those fairly optimistic meetings with the leadership of the USSR Defense Ministry. It was totally unexpected.

[Interview] What do you feel; what was the defense minister's reason for this decision?

[Kezbers] I doubt that this decision was made by the minister of defense. Either it was an order from a higher level than that of the minister....

[Interviewer, interrupting] In other words from the president of the USSR....

[Kezbers] From the president of the USSR, or it was an initiative by the commander of the Baltic Military District and perhaps the first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that it is being done to exert psychological pressure. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Do you not view the latest events as the first symptom of the introduction of a state of emergency or presidential rule?

[Jundzis] Well, yes, I do. I think, of course, that it will be introduced step by step.

Latvian Communique Urges Noncooperation With Army

AU0901130891 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 9 (AFP)—Latvia has called on its citizens to refuse to cooperate with the forcible induction of its youth into the Soviet army, saying this amounted to "direct aggression" against the independent Baltic republic, according to a resolution by the parliament in Riga received here Wednesday.

The sending of Soviet paratroopers to the Baltic republics to help enforce conscription is "only a pretext to start a large-scale attack on the democratic institutions of Latvia" and amounts to an attempt "to overthrow by force" the pro-independence authorities, the parliament also said in a separate communique.

Latvian deputies also called on parliaments and governments around the world to condemn the Soviet action and on the Supreme Soviet in Moscow to "stop the aggression of the USSR Defence Ministry".

It said all "enterprises, offices, organisations, officials and inhabitants" of Latvia should refuse to collaborate with military registration and enlistment commissions, and resist any attempt to force Latvians to be conscripted.

Deputies also reaffirmed the validity of their own law on alternative labour service inside the republic for those who refused to serve in the Soviet military. Latvian authorities were prepared to cooperate with the Soviet Army to draw up a list of those who refused to serve in either capacity, but they would not allow conscription of those doing civilian service.

Latvians involved in alternative civilian service who now went absent without leave to escape from the Soviet military would be considered as acting legally, parliament also said.

"In connection with the threats that have arisen to the further activity of Latvia's democratic institutions", deputies also gave first deputy chairman Dainis Ivans, who is currently abroad, full authority to represent the republic in his dealings with foreign governments and parliaments.

"The invasion is a blow to the recent consultations between the leadership of the republic of Latvia and the chief of the general staff of the USSR Armed Forces", parliament also said its communique.

The Latvian leadership had recently held talks in Moscow with General Mikhail Moiseyev.

"The above said action of the USSR Defence Ministry puts an end to any possibility of further consultations," the communique added.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry in neighbouring Estonia, said in a statement that the Soviet military operation aimed to "create a pretext for the beginning of a step-by-step crackdown" against the Baltic republics.

It also decried the "ongoing propaganda campaign to falsely portrait the atmosphere here (Estonia) as chaotic".

"Estonia remains peaceful and calm", it added.

Moscow, the Foreign Ministry added, hoped international opinion would be distracted from events in the Baltic by those happening in the Gulf.

Latvian Deputy Assails Troop Deployment

LD0801225191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2124 GMT 8 Jan 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Announcer] The session of the Union legislature is taking place against a background of alarming events in the republics. The first report of this series from Riga.

[Begin recording] [Video shows card in Latvian and Russian saying "In the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic"]

[Unidentified correspondent] The action of the USSR minister of defense in sending a division of airborne troops to Latvia and the possible consequences of this action were considered today at a plenary sitting of the Latvian Supreme Soviet.

Lieutenant General Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic Military District, stated that the division is being brought in to carry out compulsory conscription into the USSR Armed Forces.

[Unidentified Latvian deputy] This autumn, 4,000 young people reached draft age in Latvia. Two thousand of them are fulfilling alternate service in accordance with the law of the Latvian Republic on alternative service. One thousand have expressed the wish to serve in the Soviet Army. One thousand are serving neither there nor in any other place, and we will punish these people in keeping with the legislation of the Latvian Republic. We do not think that at present it is necessary to introduce a whole assault division in an already heated situation in the Latvian Republic, which was brought about by the seizure of the Press House by units of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. We feel that this measure will heighten the anti-Army mood in Latvia and will provoke an undesirable response in society.

It is difficult for us to believe that this measure—a whole division in Latvia—is necessary in order to draft 1,000 conscripts into the Soviet Army. [end recording]

MVD's Pugo Calls Latvian Occupation 'Solution'

LD0801113991 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1800 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The BALTIJA news agency reports that today Aloizs Vaznis, Latvian minister of internal affairs, has had a conversation with Boris Pugo, USSR minister of internal affairs. Pugo evaluated the events connected with the occupation of the Riga press building as a solution to the issue of the Communist Party of Latvia property. Vaznis confirmed after the conversation with Pugo that the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs undoubtedly supports the Communist Party of Latvia, which intends to revive its power in Latvia.

Latvian Supreme Council Views Prices, Troop Moves

LD0801114691 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Latvian Supreme Council is holding a plenary session. Since 1000z [0800 GMT] deputies have been discussing both envisaged and non-envisaged items on the agenda.

Bowing to a demand by the Equal Rights faction, Ivars Godmanis, Council of Ministers chairman, spoke about government policy on prices and comprensations to inhabitants. The prime minister then replied to deputies' questions.

In accordance with information received yesterday that USSR Minister of Defense Yazov ordered an additional USSR Armed Forces contingent deployed in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonian, and several other republics—Georgia, Armenia, Moldova and the Ukraine—this has been included on the agenda.

Latvian Front Issues Presidential Rule Statement

91UN0630A Riga SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH in Russian 15 Dec 90 p 1

[Statement issued by the Latvian People's Front Board: "Latvian People's Front Board Statement to All Supporters of Latvian Independence"]

[Text] Alarming news about activization of imperial forces is arriving from various parts of Latvia. In Moscow the "Union" Deputy Group is openly planning the restoration of a dictatorial regime with or without M. Gorbachev.

We do not need an atmosphere of fear and hysteria but already today each person must clearly weigh his own actions at the possible "X" Hour when presidential or some other kind of emergency rule will be introduced to suppress the people's freedom-loving aspirations. The possibilities for our future organized activities will depend on the level of presidential rule which is possible:

—in a relatively guarded form when "only" the activities of the Latvian Republic's institutes of power will cease at all levels and we will be barred from access to the mass media without at the same time banning the activities of socio-political organizations; or,

—in a gross form when a ban of the activities of the Latvian Republic's institutes of power will be combined with a ban on the activities of socio-political organizations with the exception of all-Union organizations—the CPSU, DOSAAF, and others.

In the first instance, our future activities plan will depend on the specific situation and we will have the capability to inform our supporters about this through the structures of our organization. However, we must already now be quite clearly cognizant of our future activities under the probability of the worst version—introduction of gross presidential rule.

The primary tasks prior to "X" Hour are:

1. Be prepared for a demonstration by Latvian residents in Riga.

2. Convene emergency sessions of Soviets at all levels at which we express support for the Latvian Republic Supreme Soviet, assign the obligation to execute the laws of the Latvian Republic, and express our attitude toward the Union treaty.

3. Speak out against squandering Latvian Republic property and the creation of stock companies based on so-called union-subordinated enterprises.

4. Join Latvian Republic specially designated volunteer guard detachments.

5. Activate propaganda of the ideas of Latvian independence among non-Latvians. While appealing to Armed Forces officers and members of their families, explain

the general directions of the ideas of Russian democrats and the NFL [Latvian People's Front].

6. Immediately inform NFL coordinators about all changes in troop unit deployments.

7. Publish international legal standards in the press that regulate the activities of occupation troops in occupied territory.

8. Create assistance funds at industrial enterprises.

9. Conduct 24-hour operations of Latvia Radio during the critical period.

10. Prepare structures of NFL departments for the probability of operations under illegal conditions and prepare a communications support system between them. Designate understudies for leaders. Develop operations of territorial groups at residence locations. Decentralize departments' monetary assets. Prepare forms with the NFL symbol for communications. Decentralize copy machines and paper storage.

11. Inform world democratic society about all processes. Prepare lists of socio-political organization activists and send them to international organizations so that there is a capability to track their future fates.

After the introduction of presidential rule, unleash a broad campaign of civil disobedience which has actually already begun through the actions of protecting Latvian young people from forcible conscription into the USSR Armed Forces. Civil disobedience is carried out:

1. Despite the fact that the President issues decrees that consistently execute only the laws of the Latvian Republic and resolutions of self-government organs.

2. By not appearing at USSR Military Commissariat call-ups or sending conscription documents along with notices about refusal to serve in the USSR Armed Forces to the Latvian SSR Military Commissariat.

3. Do not cooperate with occupation authority organs and do not provide them with any kind of information.

4. Treat proteges of presidential rule and their supporters with contempt and boycott them.

5. Use various variations of strikes to destroy the economic system of the USSR. Especially use absurd instructions that strictly regulate work and whose execution paralyzes production.

6. Support the operating capabilities of democratic organizations and their leaders under illegal conditions.

7. Document and record all crimes of the occupation authorities under conditions of presidential rule.

8. To prevent the possibility of turning dictatorial rule into legal rule, categorically do not participate in elections or referenda organized by these authorities.

9. Use people-agitators who have proven themselves during the course of the election campaign to inform the population and also involve local citizens committees.

10. Involve loyal USSR [people's] deputies in organizational work if the status of their inviolability is preserved under conditions of presidential rule.

11. To the maximum extent possible use opportunities to act within public organizations—religious and cultural organizations and trade unions—that have not been banned by the occupation regime to popularize NFL ideas.

Advocates of Latvian independence! Under conditions of continuing communist crimes against our homeland, we realize that the main precondition of our survival is—to live for the people and to unite in the name of Latvia.

[Signed] The NFL Board

'Equality' Faction Opposes Front Statement

91UN0630B Riga SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH in Russian 15 Dec 90 p 1

[Latvian Republic Supreme Soviet 'Equality' Faction Statement signed by Faction Deputy Chairman Ye. Yagupets, December 13, 1990: "Latvian Republic Supreme Soviet 'Equality' Faction Statement"]

[Text] A purposeful campaign to intensify political tension has developed in the republic in recent days. A petition is being circulated against the Union treaty using methods that are far from the elementary standards of democracy. People who have openly refused to sign are being disparaged. A situation is being created that is provoking informing against those who advocate some form or other to preserve the Union.

On December 13, 1990, a Latvian People's Front Board statement was published in the press to all advocates of Latvian independence which provided recommendations for conduct in the event of the so-called "X" Hour. The statement is directed at creating an atmosphere of political hysteria in society and it serves as a smoke screen for a number of planned activities directed at neutralizing people who are listed on so-called "black lists" just because they are dissidents.

History has demonstrated and is once again demonstrating that movements and parties that are suffering social and economic failure are attempting to distract the people's attention using artificial intensification of fear and uncertainty and thereby facilitate access to the proscenium by political extremists whose activities are directed toward the elimination of democratic freedoms.

The 'Equality' Faction thinks that the Latvian People's Front Board statement is an actual call for action that is placing society on the brink of civil war. We request that all democratic forces not submit to this provocation and observe public order.

[Signed] Ye. Yagupets, Faction Deputy Chairman

[Dated] December 13, 1990

Estonia 'Calm'; Savisaar Leaves for Moscow

LD0801160791 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] According to our information, the situation in Estonia is calm at the moment. No movement of any additional Army units nor any other troubling developments have not been observed.

Edgar Savisaar, the government leader, has departed for Moscow where he will have several important meetings, including those with foreign diplomats and foreign journalists.

Estonia's Savisaar Decries West's Noninterference

LD0801185891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1740 GMT 8 Jan 91

["Estonian Prime Minister: 'Conservatives are Threatening the National Movements'"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TASS)—Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar today declared that Estonia and the other Baltic republics are known to be unable to meet military demands for the completion of the draft of young men into the USSR Armed Forces in the near future. He thinks that "conservative forces in the Soviet Union" are trying to use the draft as "a pretext for suppressing the national movements" in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

As Savisaar announced at a news conference today at Estonia's permanent mission, this demand was put forward yesterday in a telephone conversation with him by Colonel-General Fedor Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic Military district. According to Savisaar, Kuzmin proposed that the draft of youths for military service on the republic's territory be completed before 13 January. Otherwise, paratroopers will be used. Similar demands were also presented to the leaders of the other Baltic republics. For Lithuania, the deadline was set before 11 January.

As is known, in the several republics, in particular in the Baltic republics, which have proclaimed their independence, many young people are refusing to serve in the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. According to the prime minister, there are some 8,000 such youths in Estonia doing "alternative service at building sites, in hospitals, etc."

Estonia's prime minister announced that the republic's leadership sent a telegram to the USSR president yesterday requesting a meeting to discuss the situation which has arisen. Tomorrow, Edgar Savisaar also intends to meet with USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov.

In the view of the head of the Estonian Government, the situation in the Baltic republics is an international, not an internal conflict. The fate of the three republics is in the hands of the international community, he said. If the West continues "the policy of noninterference" in the future, the conflict could turn out to have "unpredictable consequences", Edgar Savisaar noted.

Moscow TV Cites Baltic Officials on Troop Moves

LD0801183491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] As already reported, troop commanders in several military districts have been given instructions to increase practical assistance to military commissariats regarding the conscription of citizens for active military service in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, the Baltic republics, and certain Ukraine oblasts. Today, the Latvian Government stated that the Baltic Military District commander had told Godmanis, prime minister of the republic, that several airborne divisions were being sent to the Baltic republics to ensure conscription to the Soviet Army on that territory. At the same time Lozoraitis, permanent envoy of Lithuania to the United States, interviewed by REUTER noted that for them this seems an obvious provocation and the intention to provoke a bloody clash, since the Red Army does not need extra conscripts at present.

Hijacker Gets Suspended Sentence in Tallinn

LD0801201191 Moscow TASS in English 1919 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Tallinn January 8 TASS—A district court in Tallinn, Estonian capital, today passed a suspended sentence of four-year imprisonment on Mikhail Varfolomeyev, a resident of Leningrad region.

He was accused of hijacking an Aeroflot jetliner to Helsinki, which was on a flight between Tallinn and Lvov on last June 24.

The surprise judgement by the court concerning the hijacker is attributed to an incorrect conclusion by a medical commission in Leningrad region, which had recognised Varfolomeyev a first group invalid who was sick with paranoid schizophrenia.

TASS learnt from H. Siargava, who chaired the trial, that Estonian doctors were sceptical of the findings of their Leningrad region colleagues and conducted their own examination which was attended by leading Finnish Professor Kalle Akte.

Experts concluded that the defendant was not sick with a schizophrenia. In fact, the hijacking was a tragic consequence of medics' mistake: Mikhail's life became unbearable, since he was treated as inane. Therefore, he decided to flee abroad.

In compliance with the court's judgement, Varfolomeyev was released from detention and sent home. He gave a written undertaking not to leave his home town.

RSFSR

RSFSR Statement on Foreign, Domestic Policies

LD0901125191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1129 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (TASS)—A Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement issued here today states that various opinions and doubts have recently been voiced abroad regarding the course of Soviet foreign policy and the development of events in the Soviet Union. Regarding this, the RSFSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers it necessary to put out the following explanation.

1. The foreign policy of the new thinking laid down the prerequisites for establishing international cooperation corresponding to the interests of all countries, the peoples of the RSFSR and the other republics, and creating an international climate favorable for the processes of renewal. The attacks on this course on the part of conservative forces—with an interest in recreating the image of the enemy, and once again barring our country off from the outside world—are unfounded. We favor going further, guided by common sense, and we shall in every way prompt the Union's foreign policy toward this.

2. The RSFSR does not consider the use, in any form, of Soviet servicemen in the Persian Gulf region to be expedient in the present conditions. We realize that, after the Afghan adventure, even hints at the dispatch of our soldiers abroad receive a pained response. At the same time, we actively support a course toward the repulsion of aggression, with the use of all necessary means, envisaged by the UN Charter. We are also favoring the right lesson being learned from events in the Persian Gulf, the curtailment of Soviet military aid to undemocratic regimes and overall involvement in regions of conflict.

3. There can be no doubt that efforts aimed at strengthening security in Europe and the accords reached on this subject should be stepped up, including the settlement on Germany, and should be ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

4. Taking into consideration the misgivings being voiced in a number of countries concerning the sitution in the USSR, it is necessary to stress that a way out of the crisis is impossible to find through a slowing down or curtailment of reforms, and a restoring of the totalitarian structures of a unitarian state. The leadership of Russia will do everything incumbent on it to stabilize the situation on a democratic basis. This is testified by the decisions on multiplicity of ownership and the radical economic reforms adopted at the last Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Congress and their implementation.

In this direction the RSFSR is concluding treaties with Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and the Ukraine, which correspond to norms of international law. Negotiations with other republics are under way. This is a real road to the voluntary formation of a renewed union, a community of sovereign states which will be a reliable partner in international contacts and which will rule out the very possibility of destabilization, including the dismemberment of the Armed Forces, and moreover, the nuclear factor. At the same time, the RSFSR intends to participate in a constructive way in negotiations on a new Union treaty.

5. The RSFSR is seeking to develop diverse foreign ties. The leadership of the Russian Federation will resolutely oppose those trying to create an atmosphere of chaos or the opening of the path to dictatorship and reaction. Deepening the processes of international cooperation and dialogue, based on the principles of international law and universal human values, constitutes the most favorable external environment for implementing the great historic task of the democratization of Russia and of the USSR as a whole.

Moscow Mayor Views Ineffective Work

LD0801235291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 January (TASS)— The work of the second session of the Moscow City Soviet resumed here today under unhappy circumstances. An appeal to Gavriil Popov, the chairman of the Moscow City Soviet—which was adopted at the session of the standing commission on industry, transport, communications and information systems—was handed out to the session participants before the morning session.

The appeal says: "It must be stated with some bitterness that the second session of the Moscow City Soviet has demonstrated a very low capacity to produce results. Of the 13 issues on the agenda, only four have been resolved and even this took four weeks rather than two. As a result of this the authority of the Moscow City Soviet has fallen to a scandalously low level.... If you fail to place the work of the soviet onto a constructive track, then there can only be two possible explanations for this: Either you have a weak team, or your team has weak leaders."

When asked by a TASS correspondent to comment upon the reasons for the ineffective work of those participating in the session, Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Moscow City Soviet stated: "There are two factors at work. The first—certain personal characteristics of some people—many of them are inexperienced in this work. Second, the actual lack of efficiency of the existing system plays its part." In the words of Popov, "there is little that can

be decided by the Moscow City Soviet to change the life of the city. In the conditions now taking shape, the most that we can achieve is to manage to bring some sort of elementary order into the distribution of whatever falls to Moscow."

Those participating in the session will today discuss the issue of the privatization of trade and urgent measures to defend the consumer market during the period of transition to market relations, as well as the question of urgent measures on the provision of goods for the residents of Moscow.

Rally Warns Against Involvement in Gulf Conflict

PM0801142591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Colonel V. Streltsov under the rubric "Direct Line": "Rally in Palace Square"]

[Text] Leningrad—The city's central square was particularly animated just after noon last Sunday. No, it was not the 24-hour "Rebirth" telethon being launched in the center of the city on the Neva: That began later in Mariinka. The people who had gathered here were concerned about the fate of their relatives—servicemen serving in the Armed Forces who might, in the opinion of the rally participants, become hostages in the growing conflict between Iraq and the entire world community.

Despite the Soviet leadership's statements of noninterference in this conflict, Leningrad City Soviet Executive Committee granted permission to hold the rally under the slogan "No to a new Afghanistan!" on the initiative of the "Committee of Mothers," the Leningrad Antiwar Committee, the Russian "Otechestvo" Patriotic Movement, and the United Front of Working People.

In their speeches Leningrad City Soviet Deputy Yu. Popov, "Otechestvo" Patriotic Movement spokesperson N. Zvereva, and serviceman M. Ivanov did not so much emphasize censure of the conflict's instigator—Iraq—or of certain leaders of Western countries who are working toward resolving the situation only by means of an armed confrontation as the Soviet leadership accuses of attempts to plunge the country into this conflict. Hence the resolution adopted by the rally participants: to call to account the persons "involved in inveigling the USSR into a war for U.S.-British-Israeli interests, which are alien to us."

Well, it is to some extent possible to understand the anxiety of the fathers, mothers, and relatives of today's soldiers. Just one thing is of concern—the vehemence in the judgments of individual speakers, where there were no arguments but a lot of emotion.

Leningrad Oblast Farmers To Study in Finland

PM0701142491 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Leningrad Farmers Study in Finland"]

[Text] Following the Russian legislature, a joint session of the Leningrad oblast and city soviets has taken steps to consolidate the new economic relations in the countryside. The idea of developing peasant farms which the deputies adopted entails bringing about the necessary startup conditions for farmers.

In the opinion of the oblast soviet, land and resources would be best entrusted to agribusiness professionals. It was decided to select a group of students from the Beseda agricultural technical college and send them to Finland to study with farmers in the Turku Pori province, a long-standing partner of Leningrad Oblast.

The training program is set to last for a year: seven months of theoretical studies followed by practical work on farms. The students on the course have a fairly well mapped out future in front of them: they will be working in the meat stockraising sector. This year the students will be signing contracts with their sponsors for the construction of personal farms.

Bid To Form Jewish Autonomous Republic Dropped

PM0801121491 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by correspondent G. Mironova: "Birobidzhan: Former Status"]

[Text] Khabarovsk Kray—The Jewish Autonomous Oblast wanted to proclaim itself a republic but this did not materialize.

Rumors that the Jewish Autonomous Oblast will break away from Khabarovsk Kray and be transformed into the Jewish Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic have been circulating for some time now, but they have not been taken seriously.

The Far Eastern Jewish Oblast was created in 1934 under Stalin's leadership. Settlers moved here with bright hopes for the future but the euphoria quickly faded.

At present, the territory, which has an area of 36,000 square km (five rayons, two cities), is inhabited by approximately 216,000 people and 100 nationalities, with Russians constituting 83.1 percent, Ukrainians—7.4 percent, and Jews—4.1 percent.

One of the reasons for the failure of the idea of a national autonomy is the current level of emigration. Last year alone approximately 1,000 Jews left the oblast for Israel. Nevertheless, in the face of common sense, the oblast soviet Presidium adopted a resolution on the formation

of a Jewish republic on the oblast's territory. The draft declaration alarmed the population. "Such resolutions are aimed merely at satisfying the ambitions of individual leaders and increasing the administrative apparatus," announced a meeting of the Birobidzhan Equipment Repair Enterprise, echoing the sentiments of many other collectives. Under the pressure of public opinion, the Presidium quietly erased the republic question from the agenda.

'Top Secret' Plant Producing Consumer Goods

PM0801152191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1530 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Report by correspondents G. Chudnyy and G. Shkabardin; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] A Siberian chemical combine has started producing consumer goods.

[Correspondent] Until recently this small town near the oblast center, known as Tomsk-7, was top secret because it belonged to a military department. This was the first time our film crew had been here. We wanted to see how the collective was reacting to conversion—after all, output of the combine's main products has been sharply cut back. A number of enterprises at the combine have been converted and are now setting their sights on consumer goods production. This—the Mechanical Overhaul Plant's automation shop, which is crammed with computer-controlled processing centers and machine tools—has started manufacturing parts for domestic mixer faucets. Last year the first 10,000 of these extremely scarce pieces of plumbing were assembled. This year it is planned to produce 10 times more. And the designers have come up with an entirely new type of mixer faucet which is simple to use and reliable. Another shop has started producing furniture—for the living room and kitchen, which are in great demand. The combine's leaders have sealed a contract with a timber producer and, as raw material supplies increase, the furniture will be produced in greater numbers. The combine has currently assimilated production of 22 types of consumer goods. This year 7 million rubles [R] worth will be produced, and the figure next year will be R200 million.

'Democratic' Newspaper Starts Up in Bashkiria

PM0901095591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Zinovyev under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Number of IZVESTIYA's Swelled"]

[Text] Ufa—The first edition of the sociopolitical newspaper IZVESTIYA BASHKIRII has been published.

The new publication's founders are the Bashkir SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers. It carries a greeting to the newspaper's readers from M. Rakhimov, chairman of the Bashkir SSR Supreme Soviet. People's Poet of Bashkortostan and Hero of Socialist Labor Mustay Karim, winner of the Lenin and State Prizes, voices warm wishes and felicitations to the editorial collective and its authors. Editor Kutlugallyamov says in the editorial column that IZVESTIYA BASHKIRII "...has no intention of rehashing the old themes which others have already covered. We hope that we will have different approaches to coverage of the activity of soviets at various levels, problems of the market economy, questions of interethnic relations, and ecology. Since we intend to publish a democratic newspaper accessible to everyone, we will reflect the opinion of all national and social groups."

IZVESTIYA BASHKIRII is now the tenth republic-wide newspaper to be published in Ufa. The intention is to publish it in the Bashkir language in the future.

Volgograd Komsomol Paper Dispute Reported

PM0801114591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by "our correspondent" D. Shevarov: "No One is Irreplaceable?"]

[Text] Volgograd—On New Year's Eve the editorial office of the oblast newspaper MOLODOY LENINETS was left by 18 staffers headed by editor Sergey Agapov. They were dismissed a few days after the oblast soviet of people's deputies presidium had given the go-ahead to two bodies laying claim to the newspaper—the Komsomol [Communist Youth League] Obkom [oblast committee] and a labor collective. In an instant the journalists were left "denuded people on a denuded land"—literally a day before the presidium session the director of the VOLGOGRADSKAYA PRAVDA publishing house had announced that the MOLODOY LENINETS editorial office is being withdrawn from the publishing house and its property is being handed over to the Komsomol obkom. The property was saved but the popular newspaper has in fact been ruined because what is a newspaper worth without a creative collective?

Incidentally, at the last subscription MOLODOY LENINETS was the absolute leader among the local newspapers in terms of the increase in its print run.

The journalists suggested that the Komsomol obkom produce two newspapers—the independent MIG and the Komsomol newspaper—in turn, retaining the editorial office's technical services as common property for at least a time.

MIG and MOLODOY LENINETS are published today. Aleksandr Blinov, a former CPSU obkom consultant, has been approved as acting editor of MOLODOY LENINETS.

Western Republics

Georgia To Discuss Gorbachev 'Interference'

LD0801192991 Moscow TASS in English 1859 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Tbilisi January 8 TASS—The Presidium of the Georgian parliament met here today, deciding to convene the parliament on Wednesday [9 January] to discuss "the interference of the USSR president into the republic's internal affairs."

Meanwhile, the situation in Southern Ossetia continued to deteriorate. At least four people were killed and several wounded today in the worst outburst of violence in the provincial capital of Tskhinvali in recent days, local television reported.

Radio appeals by the city military commander to the public to hand in guns were left unheeded.

Georgian police units, recently deployed in Southern Ossetia, were leaving the area in accordance with an agreement with Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, reports indicated.

Donets Collieries To Continue Coal Supplies

LD0901055291 Moscow TASS in English 2141 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Donetsk January 8 TASS—Collieries of the Donets coal basin will not stop coal supplies to customers, a meeting of the regional union of Donbass strike committees decided here today.

This is how the leaders of the miners' movement expressed their attitude to a telegram by directors-general of Donetsk region production amalgamations.

The telegram was sent to mines as well as to the Soviet president, the governments of the USSR and the Ukraine. It suggested that coal supplies to customers be stopped on January 10 until coal prices are reviewed.

"In principle, the question about coal prices was raised correctly," Y. Boldyrev, member of the executive committee of the strike committees union, said. "However, we should now negotiate not only coal prices but a price policy in general.

"We do not want another half measure. The well-being of all workers in the industry is now in jeopardy.

"Therefore, we suggested that a meeting of the republican public-state commission be held in Donetsk no later than January 25 to discuss progress in implementing government decisions made after miners' strikes.

"The meeting should examine all these issues as a package. For this purpose, we insist that the Ukrainian prime minister participate in the meeting."

Miners Union Completes Work in Donetsk

LD0601125991 Kiev International Service in English 0000 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] A group of representatives of the executive bureau of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of the USSR have finished their work in the city of Donetsk. They were forming there trade union primary organizations, discussing with the working collectives of Donbass the general agreement between the Independent Trade Union of Miners and the USSR Government, as well as preparing for the first congress of the new trade union association. The members of the executive bureau singled out that so far the independent trade union has not earned a wide support among the working collectives of the Donbass coal mines because the miners do not know yet the main purposes and tasks of the trade union and are afraid of appearance of new bureaucratic structures in this organization.

Ukrainian Communist Party Resolution on Soviets

91UN0616A Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 19 Dec 90 p 1

["Resolution of the 28th Congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party: Ukrainian Communists and Soviets of People's Deputies"—PRAVDA UKRAINY headline]

[Text] Under conditions of the formation of a rule-of-law state and a multiparty system, the 28th Ukrainian Communist Party Congress confirms the basic tendency of the republic's communists toward fundamental guarantees of the people's sovereignty in the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] through the soviets of people's deputies, the immediate assumption by the soviets of their legitimate authority, and development of the processes of democracy and local self-government on the basis of an affirmation of legality and law and order.

With this goal it is necessary for communists and party organizations to significantly vitalize their operations and to concentrate their efforts on the formation of strategic trends in the activities of the soviets, implementation of the principles of the Declaration on State Sovereignty of the Ukraine, further realization of the separation of power into legislative, executive, and judicial branches, creation of the legal basis of the state—a Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, and conclusion of agreements with the Union republics and of a Union treaty of Soviet sovereign states. The task of the communists is to ensure that the soviets remain the genuine organs of power of the people and do not become a weapon in the hands of destructive forces.

At the same time the congress notes that individual party committees, in their organizational work, are contributing insufficiently to the establishment of the soviets as organs of real power, are trying to reserve to themselves the right to act in their stead and oversee them excessively, and are not offering an appropriate evaluation on

the position of communists who demonstrate passivity and indifference in the execution of their duties as deputies.

The defeat of communists in elections to soviets in individual regions of the republic, particularly in its western oblasts, has led to a worsening of sociopolitical circumstances in them and has complicated the situation in many party organizations. In these cases the communists have found themselves in the opposition, and a portion of them have lost heart and left the CPSU. This is why the activities of communist deputies under these circumstances have an especially important significance for the party. The congress approves and supports the position of communist deputies who effectively make use of their right to openly criticize rulings of the soviets adopted in defiance of existing laws. Communist deputies who function actively despite being in the minority in several soviets of people's deputies deserve universal support and aid.

The congress warns the republic's citizens that demands by opposition forces that several of the soviets be dissolved and that repeat elections be held are an attempt to revive the historically outdated slogan "Soviets without communists" and to involve society in a continuous electoral campaign, which will lead to new complications in the socioeconomic development of the regions. These same goals are also pursued through the illegal creation of alternative and parallel state structures of power.

The congress believes that the present situation demands from the party committees a consolidation of the efforts of communist deputies through the creation of communist factions in the soviets at all levels and the organization within those factions of internal discipline, active creative efforts, and a mechanism of interaction with appropriate party organizations and party committees. Under the party committees we must create regional coordinating scientific methodological centers for factions of the Ukrainian Communist Party in the soviets in order to render qualified aid, resolve important problems in the interests of the electorate, and exchange work experience. We must establish training for communist deputies in parliamentary activity everywhere. We must recognize that it is necessary to grant communist deputies who belong to factions of the Ukrainian Communist Party in the soviets the right to take part in the work of the plenums of the appropriate party committees with the right to a deliberative vote.

The congress recommends that communist deputies of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet view the work in the supreme legislative organs of state power of the republic as fundamental and it obligates the Central Committee, plenum, secretariat of the Central Committee, and party committees to analyze the activities of the communist deputies and guarantee them comprehensive aid. The congress recommends that members of the CPSU who are people's deputies of the Ukrainian SSR decisively oppose attempts by destructive forces to use the Supreme Soviet as an arena for settling political scores and satisfying departmental, group, and personal ambitions.

The congress recommends that the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and the party committees make full use of their constitutional right of legislative initiative and introduce for examination by the appropriate soviets proposals to devise and adopt important documents responding to the interests and aspirations of the people of the Ukraine. The congress calls upon deputies to be especially careful in predicting the consequences of the actions of laws and decrees connected with the transition to a market economy and to ensure that they contain first and foremost measures directed at social protections for workers.

The congress appeals to those communist factions and members of the CPSU who are people's deputies in soviets at all levels and especially in the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet and who belong to various opposition groups to clearly define their positions and to what degree they are responsive to the fundamental interests of the people and to party and civil ethics. On the other hand, communist factions in the soviets should not lose the smallest opportunity to cooperate with various blocs and groups in the soviets in the interests of the people of the Ukraine.

The congress considers it necessary even today to mount a political effort in preparation for upcoming elections to the soviets. Acknowledging that the sole path to power is through the electoral precincts and through free and honest competition with other sociopolitical forces, the congress obliges the party committees to significantly strengthen territorial party organizations and attract a broader selection of the communists who are on the party register at the enterprises and in organizations to work in them. The congress is in favor of reform of the electoral system, a reform which does not exclude the possibility of voting in the electoral districts according to lists advanced by the various parties and which guarantees representation in the soviets of envoys of labor collectives.

Under today's circumstances, whereby anticommunist hysteria is on the increase, an open political struggle for power is under way, and newer and newer political and social formations declare their existence, the activities of communist deputies have a significant effect on the restoration of trust in the Communist Party, normalization of the situation in the republic, elevation of the role of the soviets, and their assumption of full power.

The congress considers the full support of communist deputies for constructive initiatives in the soviets of people's deputies directed at the good of the people to be fundamentally important.

Caucasus

Clashes in South Ossetia Leave 3 Dead

LD0801165691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1504 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (TASS)—During the last 24 hours the situation had deteriorated considerably in the town of Tskhinvali and in the Dzhavskiy Rayon of Georgia, where a state of emergency has been introduced and a curfew is in force.

According to data from the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs press center, during this time armed clashes have taken place between citizens of Ossetian nationality and Georgian militia detachments. According to preliminary data, three people have been killed and 25 injured in exchanges of fire.

On 7 January at about 1000, unidentified people fired shots at the USSR state flag on the party obkom building and at the oblast executive committee building in Tskhinvali. Looting has become more frequent. A bread truck bound for the hospital was held up on the way to South Ossetia by unauthorized people. The contents were confiscated. There is a shortage of bread products and other food products in Tskhinvali, including those in children's homes and in the town hospital.

About 100 men from Georgian informal armed formations from Gori have arrived in Dzhavskiy Rayon by helicopter from the Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry State Traffic Inspectorate. A convoy of eight trucks carrying paratroop assault regiment personnel has arrived in the oblast center from the town of Kutaisi, to guard military installations, on the instructions of the commander of the Transcaucasus Military District.

Gunmen Open Fire

LD0901105191 Moscow TASS in English 1034 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, January 9 TASS—In the past twenty-four hours the situation in Tskhinvali and the Dzhava Region in Georgia, where a state of emergency and a curfew are in force, have remained tense.

The Soviet Interior Ministry told TASS today that on January 8 unidentified gunmen, riding in a jeep and a bus, opened automatic fire on people in the street. According to provisional figures, one man was killed and two were wounded. Three shops were looted. In Yeredvi village, Tskhinvali Region, Georgians took a Soviet Army warrant officer, an Ossetian by nationality, as hostage. A day earlier three people were killed (four according to other data) and 25 were wounded in armed clashes between Ossetians and Georgian militia.

According to reports from the Georgian capital Tbilisi, there are cases when Georgian militiamen voluntarily leave their units in South Ossetia. At the same time, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet, refuted at an extraordinary session reports of an alleged agreement on the withdrawal of militia units from the area under the state of emergency.

The Georgian parliament convened the extraordinary session to discuss the only issue—"the Soviet president's interference in the internal affairs of the republic"—in response to Mikhail Gorbachev's decree. The decree declared null and void the law of the Georgian parliament abolishing the South Ossetian autonomous region, and the declaration by the South Ossetian Regional Council of People's Deputies proclaiming it a Soviet democratic republic.

Insults Against Servicemen in Georgia Criticized

PM0801145791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Colonel G. Kaushanskiy under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Mutual Understanding Needed"]

[Text] Tbilisi—At the end of last November KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote that weapons and ammunition had been stolen at Tbilisi Higher Artillery Command School by five cadets of Georgian nationality. Unfortunately, incidents associated with this educational institution have been far from exhausted. On New Year's Eve sentries were fired on from the windows of the apartment block across the street. Lumped together, this and other incidents recently prompted a group of teachers and commanders at the said command school to send an open letter to the chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet and deputies of the Georgian parliament.

After voicing alarm at the numerous instances of moral and physical insults against servicemen and at the atmosphere of intolerance being fueled by those who seek in people in uniform enemies of "Georgia's national independence," the authors demanded that the most firm and decisive measures be taken. This applies to searching for and returning the stolen weapons, to political balance in official statements on the status of the USSR Armed Forces on Georgian territory, and to correctness in definitions and assessments of the military labor of the motherland's defenders.

In a reply letter which, like the first, was published in the republic press, the Supreme Soviet Presidium declared that it censures and condemns the irresponsible adventurist actions of "certain persons with the aim of provoking conflicts with Soviet Army servicemen."

However, certain points in the letter give rise to perplexity, to say the least. In particular, it poses this question: Did Georgians perpetrate the enumerated actions at all, seeing that representatives of 80 nationalities live in the republic? Therefore I would like to ask in return: Since when have crimes acquired a nationality?

Georgian Deputies Visit Armenia 4 Jan

NC0901102091 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Statement issued by the Armenian Republic's Supreme Soviet press center]

[Text] Yerevan, 8 Jan (ARMENPRES)—Two Georgian Supreme Soviet people's deputies, Rtskhiladze and Kortsadze, visited Armenia on 4 January. They delivered an invitation from Zviyad Gamsakhurdiya, chairman of the Georgian Republic's Supreme Soviet, to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Armenian Republic's Supreme Soviet, to pay an official visit to Georgia.

The Georgian delegation was received by Babken Ararktsyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian Republic's Supreme Soviet.

The two sides discussed Armenian-Georgian relations in light of the current political situation. They discussed the social situation of the Armenian population in Dzhavakhk [Akhalkalakskiy an Akhaltsikhskiy rayons in Georgia], the protection of the Armenian historical monuments in Georgia, and the recent cases of pillage of freight and foodstuffs sent through Georgia to Armenia.

The sides found it expedient to create parliamentary working groups to cooperate in examining and settling the contentious issues arising in Georgian-Armenian relations.

Yerevan City Soviet Convenes 8 Jan

NC0901114991 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0400 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The popular forces have walked the short but difficult path in the national liberation struggle extending from Freedom Square to the parliament building. Yerevan made a decisive contribution to this fateful struggle, and today Yerevan is solemnly setting up its own city administration. The first session of the first convocation of the Yerevan city soviet of people's deputies opened yesterday, 8 January, at the Hall of Congresses of the Armenian Republic's Supreme Soviet.

Opening the session, Babken Ararktsyan, Armenian Supreme Soviet first deputy chairman, extended greetings to the participants on the New Year and Christmas holidays.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Armenian Republic's Supreme Soviet, spoke next. He congratulated the members of the city soviet and expressed hope that their work will be fruitful and productive. Ter-Petrosyan noted: It is clear that Yerevan is the pacesetter for the republic, for it plays a leading role in the republic's economic, political, and cultural life. This underscores the importance that should be accorded to the work of the Yerevan City Soviet. In forming the Yerevan City Soviet we are in effect strengthening and shaping one of the most important links in our state structure. The Yerevan City Soviet, along with the republic's parliament, should become the formulator of our entire policy. The events of the last three years—and I am referring to our national struggle—have graphically illustrated Yerevan's role and importance. For their part, the parliamentary elections also testified to the high level of political consciousness of Yerevan's residents. It was here that the republic's democratic forces won a crushing victory against the ruling authorities. This victory was repeated in the elections to the Yerevan City Soviet. The composition of the elected city soviet of people's deputies corresponds to the composition of the parliament. It may even be that the democratic forces in the city soviet are even stronger than they are in the republic's parliament. This is a pleasing phenomenon. We believe that there will be many opportunities for the city soviet to show the way for the republic's parliament, for, as you yourselves have observed, the conservative forces in the parliament are sometimes able to force the passage of important decisions. We hope that, by playing an active role, the city soviet will be able to influence the republic's parliament.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan expressed the hope that the Yerevan city soviet will genuinely support the republic's parliament and become one of the most important links in our state structure.

Babadzhanyan, chairman of the city electoral commission supervising the elections for the Yerevan city soviet, then delivered a report.

The session is continuing its deliberations.

Transit Accord To End Armenia Gas 'Famine'

PM0801162191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[From the IZVESTIYA and news agency roundup: "Armenia-Georgia: Gas Supply Agreement"]

[Text] On 3 January, Georgiy Tataryan, director of the "Armgazprom" association, told the POSTFAKTUM agency that as a result of talks with representatives of the Republic of Georgia agreement has been reached on supplies of gas to Armenia via Georgia.

In Tataryan's words, Armenia will cease to experience its gas famine in the middle of the current year. Currently gas supplies to Armenia from the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] via a gas pipeline that crosses Azerbaijan territory are extremely erratic.

Armenian Communist Party 'Crisis' Viewed

91US0195A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 90 Second Edition p 3

[Article by L. Chakhmakhchyan: "The Time of Silence Is Over"]

[Text] **Events in the life of the Communist Party of Armenia have unfolded dramatically in recent years. It**

has increasingly lost its standing in society. It is no accident that in just several months more than 5,000 members have quit the party and about 40,000 have stopped paying party dues.

These painful processes were reflected by the 29th Congress of the Communist Party of the republic. Quite different opinions on the fate of the party and ways to overcome a protracted crisis in it were voiced. A group of delegates, though a small one, left the congress altogether, convinced that their aspiration to change the party into a social-democratic organization would not gain the support of a majority. However, there was no unanimity on a number of issues of principle even among those who stayed. The main point which tormented and troubled the delegates was: Is it possible to renew and rejuvenate the Communist Party?

Indeed, revival is precisely the issue at present. How has it come to this? Why has the Communist Party of Armenia lost the confidence of its people?

This is my pain and grief, as well as that, I believe, of many Armenian communists.

I have been doing party work in the republic for about 10 years, and I have seen first-hand the processes which have brought the Communist Party to this crisis.

I immediately ask myself a question about my responsibility. Our readers are entitled to ask me this question. What will I answer? I could say: I have worked diligently, and have executed what I have been entrusted with... I have not held positions which would have allowed me to actually influence the strategy and tactic of the Communist Party... However, I understand that something is lacking in these words. This begs the standard formula: I share the responsibility with all... However, this is not true either. This is most likely prompted by the habit that has been inculcated upon us for decades: to repent, to acknowledge one's guilt, and spread it around. However, I believe that if I am guilty of anything it is my failure to become a rebel. After all, my silence, as well as that of hundreds of other communists, has brought about the grave crisis of the Communist Party of the republic and the estrangement of people from the party committees.

When they discuss the events in Armenia, they usually make February 1988, the aggravation of the Nagorno-Karabakh situation, their reference point. However, long before this even bribery, favoritism, and speculation had eaten away at Armenia from the inside. The word "perestroyka" was cynically viewed as merely changing the shop sign over an old policy even as the winds of change started blowing all over the country. It was continuously asserted with conceit from all podiums that "the moral-political atmosphere in the republic is healthy." The entire so-called political and indoctrination work was structured accordingly.

To be sure, they discussed the need for radical measures to ameliorate the situation even then. However, isolated voices could not be heard through the rumble of stormy applause. Meanwhile, the people were losing confidence in the party leadership. The authority of raykoms [rayon committees] and gorkoms [city committees] of the party, as well as that of the Central Committee of the republic Communist Party, waned before our very eyes. The events of February 1988 merely exacerbated the situation.

This was definitely due to an entire array of causes. As I see it, the faulty practice of cadre selection at all levels was the main cause, despite Armenia being rich in highly skilled specialists. Unfortunately, the cadre policy turned out to be saturated with favoritism and local clannishness. We may say that these principles remained firm until very recently.

A typical example: L. Yeolchyan, who was appointed the administrator of affairs of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee in 1988, began his activities here by taking care of his people. He immediately "arranged" for downtown apartments to be given to his secretary and his driver who had worked in the Central Committee for just a few months. He took "under his wing" O. Seyradaryan from Echmiadzinskiy Rayon, and immediately allocated him a three-room apartment in Yerevan in violation of all rules. This happened at a difficult time for the citizens of Yerevan, when the city was beginning to fill up with refugees!

As a rule, during such promotions people who had been conditioned for years to play the role of unenterprising executors were preferred. The opinions of the communists and ordinary working people were not taken into account. First Secretary of the Party Raykom S. Petrosyan was forced to resign under pressure from dissatisfied residents in Novemberyanskiy Rayon. Without studying the situation or taking any interest in the causes of this conflict, the Central Committee recommended that the chairman of the rayon executive committee be elected to this post. A new flare-up of popular indignation followed. One day later, they were forced to convene an organizational plenum of the rayon committee once again.

Here is an example of, so to say, the opposite. In the summer of 1988, Director of the Kirovakan Chemical Plant M. Serobyan pulled, as they say, a considerable minority in the competitive elections to first secretary of the Kirovakan Party Gorkom. Few people supported his candidacy. However, he soon became a secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee. A good person and a capable economic manager, he could not become an accomplished party functionary. He was forced to leave this position.

At the same time, many people were left out. For example, the outstanding Soviet athlete Yuriy Vardanyan could not find a job for two years because Chairman of the Armenia State Committee for Sports and Physical Culture M. Ispiryan was not interested in him. Director of the Armremproyekt Institute G.

Kazaryan was illegally fired from his job under pressure from First Deputy Minister of Housing and Communal Facilities G. Sarukhanyan. Procurator appeals regarding his reinstatement were ignored. The Central Committee did not respond in any way to a presentation in the newspaper PRAVDA which relayed this episode in the article "Under Strong Arm Pressure."

Moreover, as I see it, a biased attitude toward creative and outstanding people who strove to do something useful for the republic emanated from the Bureau of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee itself. They attempted to compromise those who did not fit in as they could.

The case of the former chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic, V. Markaryants, is memorable. On the eve of consideration of the issue of the Scientific Production Association "Nairit" at a session of the Supreme Soviet, the Central Committee Bureau instructed him to work on this issue with Union organs and submit his proposal. Subsequently, after a collective discussion, the members of the Bureau arrived at the conclusion that it was not expedient to close down this enterprise. They instructed the chairman of the Council of Ministers to report this to the session. However, S. Arutyunyan, then first secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee, took the floor at the end of the session and voiced a diametrically opposite point of view, stating that "Nairit" had to be closed down, and thus aiming a blow at V. Markaryants. Incidentally, the new government of the republic has now set up a commission on issues of the further operation of the Scientific Production Association "Nairit," which has come to the conclusion that it is necessary to resume the operation of this enterprise.

In 1989, the Bureau resolved to relieve of his responsibilities only one employee of the Central Committee apparatus... for violating instructions on the handling of documents. However, it did not dare to hold leaders accountable to the party for incomparably more serious transgressions.

The lack of principles in cadre policy could not go unnoticed and links with the people and rank-and-file communists to be severed. One of the most important duties the party solemnly assumed—the creation of a body of managers, in the words of V.I. Lenin—was not discharged by it.

The leadership of the Communist Party of Armenia at the time did not stand up to the test of independence either. Perhaps, some things were not thoroughly thought out when the CPSU Central Committee resolved not to interfere in the affairs of the republic Communist Parties, to abandon administrative practices and political prompting, and to give them an opportunity to handle the situation themselves proceeding from local conditions. I believe that this was a correct decision. However, how did the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia act under the new conditions? It was taken aback and lost heart. Not only were actions lacking, but they were at a loss even for the necessary words.

Who if not the communists were compelled by fate itself to be the first to do recovery work after the tragic earthquake in December 1988? The people expected this and would have undoubtedly appreciated good deeds properly, as they appreciated the selfless work of First Secretary of the Spitak Gorkom N. Muradyan and his concern with the restoration of the destroyed city and the needs of its residents. Other names may also be given. However, we cannot be silent about the fact that in almost two years the Central Committee Bureau has adopted about 50 resolutions on the elimination of the consequences of the natural catastrophe in the disaster zone; but not a single one has been implemented. The efforts of individual functionaries who selflessly devoted themselves to the endeavor have not been supported. Supply disruptions, unsteady deliveries of materials and equipment, and a shortage of personnel have frustrated all the plans made. Thousands of people continue to live in tents and temporary houses. To be sure, a protracted economic blockade of Armenia by its neighbors has been a factor as well. But does this have to do with the blockade only?

Nature abhors a vacuum. The vacuum of mistrust was filled by other political forces, which took advantage of criticizing the errors of the Communist Party to their own ends. We must admit that they accomplished a lot.

At this point, I would like to dwell in particular on the leaders of the Communist Party. K. Demirchyan, who headed the party for 14 years, S. Arutyunyan who relieved him, and V. Movsisyan who resigned at the recent congress of the Communist Party of Armenia, did little to ensure the genuine authority of the party committees. It is impossible to overcome estrangement from the people by means of populist phraseology not backed up by deeds.

This is the burden of difficult problems which the communists of Armenia had to carry to their 29th congress. Opinions were even heard that the gulf which has emerged between the people of the republic and its Communist Party could not be eliminated. They said that the Communist Party was doomed to retire from the arena of public life for good. However, hardly anyone is in a position to make prophecies on behalf of the people and foist his conclusions on them. It is much more useful to ponder ways to renew the Communist Party. I am convinced that it has a good chance to get, as they say, a second wind.

Voices are now being heard which propose to turn the Communist Party of Armenia into "the defender and articulator of the national interests of the Armenian people." This thought was clearly seen in the discussion at the 29th congress. However, if we disengage ourselves from the magic of this "expressive" phrase, it becomes

obvious that restricting ourselves to the national interests would markedly narrow the social base of the party as a political force which credibly claims to foster through its activities general values of humanity and civilization, including genuine national values. While liberating ourselves from dogmatism and sectarianism, we should take care not to give in to the other extreme—populist promises. Undoubtedly, the hopes and pain of the nation may cast their lofty light on the path of the Communist Party striving to renew. However, to this end we first of all need to have a clear idea of precisely what serves the good of the nation under current conditions, and what is detrimental to it.

The 29th Congress of the Communist Party of Armenia helped to analyze some of the pressing problems. However, we cannot say that clear-cut answers were found to questions in need of a resolution. The difficult endeavor of clearing away accumulated obstructions lies ahead for the new leadership of the Communist Party of Armenia Central Committee. As I see it, all sound thoughts and forward-looking proposals will be useful in this endeavor.

Much will depend on the practical actions of the Communist Party with regard to a radical economic reform. After all, the situation in the national-economic complex of Armenia is exceptionally difficult. Labor and production discipline is very poor. The loss of work time in industry amounted to more than 210,000 man-days in 1989. Products worth more than 12 million rubles were not turned out. These statistics are even higher this year. The situation in agriculture is likewise lamentable. Forty-five percent of the total volume of meat consumed and 75 percent of the milk are delivered from all-Union stocks. The issue of employment of the able-bodied populace has not been taken care of. At present, tens of thousands of residents of the disaster zone and refugees need job placement. On the other hand, about 16,500 vacant jobs in the sectors of the national economy have not been filled. It is not enough to merely be aware of this. At present, it is much more important for the Communist Party to offer a sophisticated, comprehensively substantiated program for getting out of this deep hole and for combining the development of the market with the interests and social protection of the working people. In this field, many points would be found for applying the energies of the Communist Party.

May the party be revived and its authority be regained only by means of organizational and agitation-propaganda measures? This should hardly be expected to work. Apparently, the Communist Party of the republic will now have to concentrate its main work in the soviets of all echelons. How else can any party operate under a multiparty system? Proclaiming the "vanguard role" further is inconceivable because for now the Communist Party does not play this role in the republic either de jure or de facto. From now on, it may actually influence socioeconomic and public-policy processes mainly through its representatives in the organs of legislative and executive power. Of course, this is beyond the abilities of those obedient executors of orders who, on top of this, have no convictions. However, energetic organizers, politicians, and analysts who, I am convinced, should become leaders in the party committees will be up to this task. They will primarily promote the revival of personality and the expansion of rights and sovereignty of every person regardless of his ethnic and class affiliation. Let us recall that "the free development of everyone is a condition for the free development of all."

...I know that there are many communists in Armenia for whom party membership has always meant serving the ideals of social justice, their own people, and humanism. They will be the ones to decide the fate of their Communist Party now. Fortunately, the times of the former "helmsmen" are gone and, hopefully, for good. May the new ones have sufficient wisdom, common sense, and peace-making enterprise.

Central Asia

New Committee Chairmen Appointed in Kazakhstan

LD0901090691 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Kazakh 1500 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] By the decree of Comrade Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], Comrade Mukhtar Makash-ogly Baykenov was appointed chairman of the State Committee for Geology and Protection of Underground Resources of the Kazakh SSR. Comrade Anatoliy Mikhaylovich Dubitskiy was appointed chairman of the State Committee for Ecology and Use of Natural Resources of the Kazakh SSR. Comrades Baykenov and Dubitskiy were included in the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR. Comrade Kylyshbek Satylgan-ogly Izbaskanov was appointed chairman of the State Committee for Administration of the State Property of the Kazakh SSR.

Further on New Kirghiz Interior Minister

PM0901110191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by A. Ryabushkin: "Municipalities in Kyrgyzstan"]

[Text] Frunze—A decision on the division of the government system in oblasts into a municipal and a state system was adopted at a Kyrgyzstan [Kirghizia] parliamentary session.

Local self-government will be exercised by the population directly or through organs elected by them on the basis of their material and financial base, while state government will be exercised through central structures and will be funded by the republic budget.

The oblispolkoms [oblast soviet executive committees] hitherto in existence, which consisted of departments and sectors, will be transformed into new-type executive

apparatuses with different functions. The organization of consultants' [referentskiye] groups, a contract system of payment, and even seats for elders in rural soviets are envisaged.

A step has been taken away from the collective form of executive power toward unified management. To this end the powers of oblast soviet chairmen, who are henceforth the republic president's official representatives in the provinces, have been considerably expanded.

In accordance with the adopted law, the formation of six oblasts has begun in Kyrgyzstan. Elections of people's deputies to oblast soviets will be held in two of them very soon.

And there is another news item: A new republic internal affairs minister has been appointed by decree of President Akayev: F. Kulov, who proved himself in the post of Frunze City commandant.

Uzbek City To Set Up Free Economic Zone

PM0701140691 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent A. Orlov: "Free Zone on Ancient Ground"]

[Text] A session of the city soviet took a decision to give Samarkand the status of free economic zone.

"Our city is special," says M. Ganiyev, chairman of the Samarkand Gorispolkom [City Soviet Executive Committee]. "Unique ancient cultural monuments are concentrated here. But as a world tourist center Samarkand can only accommodate 10 percent of the people who wish to visit it. The free zone allows us to change the economic and social situation and to control taxation, customs regulations, and property relations, because here we have property belonging to the Union, the republic, the city, and various departments. In view of the labor surplus, foreign capital investments will make it possible to create new jobs in joint ventures, in the construction of hotels and an airport, and in the service sector, for which there are no funds at the moment. Profits will be used to develop the city and the republic.

"In implementing the decision taken at the city soviet session, the gorispolkom has worked out a comprehensive program of foreign economic relations for Samarkand which specifies concrete measures designed to set up the free economic zone. We are currently preparing documents to be discussed by the Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet. It will take the final decision."

Attempts To Rehabilitate Rashidov Deplored

PM0801111491 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jan 91 Union Edition p 3

[Article by B. Tashmukhamedov, academician of the Uzbek SSR (Soviet Socialist Republic) Academy of Sciences and holder of USSR and Uzbek SSR state prizes, Doctor of Technical Sciences A. Pulatov, and Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences Sh. Ismatullayev: "Nostalgia for the 'Boss': Who Needs Rashidov Rehabilitated?"]

[Text] Tashkent—The name Sh. Rashidov has been emerging from oblivion with increasing frequency of late. Calls for the rehabilitation of the former first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee have been made from platforms of varying importance and have begun to look like a concerted campaign.

The campaign was started by a group of USSR people's deputies from Fergana Oblast in the 10 February 1990 edition of the oblast newspaper KOMMUNIST, in which, in an appeal published under the resounding title of "Don't Throw Stones at Uzbekistan," they tried in passing to whitewash Sh. Rashidov.

This call was then taken up by the press in Dzhizak Oblast—Sh. Rashidov's home territory. The campaign is still in progress. A session of Dzhizakskiy Rayon Soviet and a rayon communist conference called for attitudes toward the local man to be reviewed. The direction in which attitudes were supposed to shift was unambiguous.

And so it went on. The republic's weekly newspaper UZBEKISTAN ADABIETI VA SAN'AT! [as transliterated] (LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF UZBEKISTAN) contained a full page spread by former party apparatchik B. Daminov who shed emotional tears on the subject of the "wise and modest" leader [vozhd].

The matter has finally reached the Uzbek SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, where some deputies are also asking themselves the same question: isn't it time..?

There is something behind all these "trial balloons." At a time of disorder and national conflict a great many people are nostalgic for a "firm hand." And Rashidov's name is cunningly being linked with prosperity in Uzbekistan, though there is deliberate silence on the subject of the shadier activities of the "father" of the Uzbek people.

Let us be as honest as we can: Rashidov was no different from similar politicians at republic level. Had it been someone other than him, the situation would have been the same. In fact he made considerable efforts to develop Uzbek industry, housing construction, etc. But we will venture to assert that more than anyone else in the country he made best use of the bureaucratic command system for his own ends.

He quickly realized what was required of the leader of the republic and managed to present himself in the Kremlin corridors of power as a man personally devoted to General Secretary L. Brezhnev.

Cotton monoculture was Rashidov's personal brainchild. It was in exchange for cotton that money and goods in short supply were obtained, and the republic—

the country's biggest cotton supplier—developed one-sidedly: Orchards were dug up, pasture land was sown, and the villagers' life—in particular that of the women and schoolchildren—became one of forced labor in the cotton fields. And the sharp deterioration in the state of the soil did not halt the annual growth in the state procurement plan.

And so falsified production figures appeared, actively abetted by the "boss." Some people still claim that Rashidov knew nothing about them. This is untrue. It was impossible for him not to know about them. The falsified figures and the corruption, the cotton mafia, the vow of silence and the persecution of critics were all the work of Rashidov's supporters, who realized that the most important thing was to give good reports.

Any divergence of opinion was ruthlessly suppressed. Hundreds of people were subjected to repressive measures just for disagreeing with the policies of the "boss." The obedient law enforcement bodies slavishly carried out his every order, disregarding the law and flouting the most basic precepts of morality.

Why don't the current sponsors of the the former "boss" remember who is responsible for the ailing state of the Uzbek language? In every institution and organization all the documentation was in Russian, and Russian was used for any action to be taken, even at the rayon level. The whole thing became absurd: For example, at the "Uzbekfilm" movie studios scripts were only accepted if they were in Russian. The "internationalist" Rashidov helped to exile his native tongue from the political, cultural, and artistic arenas.

This was how the republic's "khan" with a party card ruled, with the tacit assistance of Moscow. This is the bitter truth, and there's no escaping it.

And those who support Rashidov today are certainly not motivated by the desire to restore his "good name." Essentially an attempt is being made to resuscitate authoritarianism at all levels. In not such an offensive form as before, of course, but carefully disguised by the slogans of perestroyka.

When they speak about the current "stability" in the republic, it is certainly worth thinking about what lies behind this term. It would be more accurate to call it neostagnation. In Uzbekistan there are no rallies or demonstrations because it is impossible to obtain permission to hold them. Here is a recent example. Upon receiving an application to allow a city constituent conference of the Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, A. Askarov, chairman of Tashkent Gorispolkom [City Soviet Executive Committee], replied in the following terms: "In accordance with the declaration of sovereignty of the Uzbek SSR the laws of the republic have precedence over the the laws of the USSR. Consequently, at the present time there can be no parties or social movements." Only the naive man would probably ask: So what about the new version of Article 6 of the Union Constitution?

Of course, dissenters were persecuted in the "boss's" time. But now interethnic tension provides excellent grounds for harassment. By deftly exploiting the uneasiness of the Russian-speaking population with regard to the well-publicized events in Fergana, and by raising the specter of "nationalist danger" from the informals, especially from the people's movement "Birlik," the conservative apparatus is trying to pass itself off in the public eye as the "firm hand" which stifles all disorder and sedition at source.

We are aware that not all the points in the "Birlik" movement's program are espoused by representatives of national minorities, but no one can deny that when certain people deliberately connived with the authorities to spread the provocative rumor that Russians were allegedly about to be butchered, members of the Birlik movement denounced the false rumors to the Russian-speaking population. This was the case in spring last year before the elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet, and most recently in August when the next wave of anti-Russian rumors led to the next wave of migration.

Even today truthful information does not always reach the people. The leaders of the republic, just like Rashidov's team in their day, get extremely irritated with newspaper articles that do not coincide with their views. Unfortunately, the local press is completely under their control. One can well understand how easy it is to manipulate public opinion here, and how difficult it is for Uzbek democrats to conduct their fight against the authoritarian, bureaucratic system and neo-Rashidovism. And the neo-Rashidovists won't give in.